

Kawerau District Council

Freedom Camping Site Assessments

www.kaweraudc.govt.nz



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Assessment Approach	3
3	Scope	4
4	Reserves	5
5	Purpose of Protection	5
5.1	Protection of the area	6
5.2	Protection of the health and safety of people who may visit the area	6
5.3	Protection of access to the area	7
6	Assessment Criteria under the Freedom Camping Act	7
7	Summary of Site Assessments	8
8	Site Assessments	11
8.1	Recreation Reserves – Important Reserves	11
8.2	Recreation Reserves – Neighbourhood Reserves	38
8.3	Local Purpose Reserves - Amenity Reserves	60
8.3.1	Local Purpose Reserves – General	60
8.3.2	Local Purpose Reserves - Esplanade Reserves	71
8.3.3	Local Purpose Reserves – Cemetery	71
8.3.4	Local Purpose Reserves – Utility Reserves	73
8.4	Council Owned Land	74

1 Introduction

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables Councils to make bylaws to regulate freedom camping on land that is controlled or managed by Council. Under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, freedom camping is permitted unless it is restricted or prohibited in an area, in accordance with a bylaw or other Act such as the Reserves Act 1977.

Kawerau District Council ('Council') has had a freedom camping bylaw in place since 2019. The bylaw has the purpose to protect the environment in the area, protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area and protect access to the area.

In order to determine if a prohibition or restriction is required, Council has undertaken this site assessment to identify and assess Council owned and administered land within the District, which may have the potential to be used for freedom camping as provided for under s11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

The aim of the site assessment is to:

- consider all land owned or administered by Council within the Kawerau district, where there is potential to camp in a vehicle;
- provide a clear determination of what a significant site is; and
- provide a consistent and fair approach to classification of Council-owned land in relation to restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping within the Kawerau District against the criteria set down in the Act.

This is to ensure freedom camping can still occur within the district, while enabling Council to place reasonable restrictions on freedom camping to protect the environment of the area, the health and safety of people who may visit the area, and to protect access to the area.

Each assessment considered the suitability of the site for camping based on the need to protect the environment in the area, protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, and protect access to the area. This is to ensure freedom camping can still occur within the district, while enabling Council to place reasonable restrictions on freedom camping where required.

2 Assessment Approach

The following methodology has been applied to this assessment:

1. Assess the scope of land to be included and excluded by nature of ownership, administration, legislation or practical limitations of access (see exclusions).
2. Define what is to be protected under the three purposes of the Act (see purpose of protection).
3. Develop an assessment/scoring system to assess the degree to which a site requires protection from the effects of freedom camping.
4. Assess sites using the assessment system.
5. Present the findings of the assessment.

This approach is in accordance with national best practice and is consistent with other councils approach to the assessment of sites under the Act.

3 Scope

Under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, councils are given powers to regulate and enforce any Freedom Camping Bylaws which have been developed and adopted under the Act.

It is important to be able to balance the regulatory aspect of enforcing the bylaw to protect and maintain the natural environment of the district, with promoting and encouraging the tourist opportunity of freedom camping in the district.

The sites included in this assessment fall within Kawerau District Council area, defined in section 6(1) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 as land controlled or managed by or on behalf of Council.

The following land is considered to be out of scope for this assessment and have not been assessed:

Private Land – Under s3(4) of the Freedom Camping Act, the regulation of freedom camping on private land is specifically excluded. (Land owned by private persons/companies)

Crown owned Public Land - (not administered by Council) Land administered by the Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand or Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency or other crown agencies.

Occupied Council Land - Council administered land including reserves which are fully occupied under commercial or community lease or licence or occupied by Council for administration/operational purposes.

Areas where other parking regulations manage vehicles - While freedom camping is permitted on a road (under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, it is subject to the provisions of the Land Transport Act 1998, and any rules or regulations made under that Act. The Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 restricts places a person can park a vehicle (and therefore freedom camp) as follows:

- Under rule 6.1 a driver must not park a vehicle on a road, without due care or without reasonable consideration for other road users.
- Rule 6.2(1) states vehicles must not be parked on a roadway (portion of the road used for vehicular traffic) if it can be parked on the road margin (adjacent to, but not forming part of, either the roadway or the footpath) without damaging ornamental grass plots, shrubs, or flower beds on the margin.
- Parking on, or close to, a corner, bend, rise, dip, traffic island, or intersection is prohibited under rule 6.3, if the parking will obstruct (or be likely to obstruct) other traffic or any view of the roadway to the driver of a vehicle approaching that corner, bend, rise, dip, traffic island, or intersection.
- Parking that obstructs entry to, or exit from, any driveway is prohibited under rule 6.9.

In addition, the Council is undertaking a review of our bylaws, which includes the Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2011, which currently manages parking on roads within the District, including restriction of heavy motor vehicles being prohibited from parking for more than 30 minutes within Kawerau District roads. This would apply to some larger freedom

camping vehicles.¹ A person freedom camping within Kawerau District must comply with all Land Transport Act 1998 rules and regulations and any bylaws enforce within Kawerau District Council including but not limited to any Traffic and Parking Bylaw, and any Dog Control or Animal Control Bylaw.

4 Reserves

The Reserves Act 1977² prohibits freedom camping on reserves unless approved by the Minister, provided for in a campground, or permitted within a reserves management plan. In contrast, the Freedom Camping Act 2011 permits camping unless restricted or prohibited under a Bylaw made under the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Council does not have any land set aside or administered as a campground.

Council's Reserve Management Plan has the following policies permitting camping under certain conditions:

- Prideaux Park - freedom camping in fully self-contained motor vehicles is allowed behind the field pavilion
- Firmin Field – freedom camping in fully self-contained motor vehicles is allowed in the car park adjacent to the sports field when parking in designated parks. Any parking on the grassed area shall be at the northern end of the reserve.

Camping is prohibited on all other reserve land administered by Kawerau District Council under section 44(1)e of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Reserve Management Plan is currently under review. Where it has been identified, in this site assessment, that the Reserve Management is inconsistent with the existing or proposed freedom camping bylaw, and Council wish to consider permitting camping on any reserve, it may do so by resolution under the powers delegated under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Formal consultation will enable public to be heard on any proposed changes.

5 Purpose of Protection

Kawerau District Council may make a bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 only if it is satisfied that:

- (a) the bylaw is necessary for one or more of the following purposes:*
 - (i) to protect the area;*
 - (ii) to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area;*
 - (iii) to protect access to the area; and*
- (b) the bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area; and*

¹ Waka Kotahi provides guidance on additional requirements for motorhomes which are considered a heavy motor vehicle (a vehicle which has a gross vehicle mass of over 35,000kg) on their website:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/new-motorhomes-information-for-importers-traders-and-privatepurchasers/new-motorhomes.pdf>

² Reserves Act 1977, s44(1)(e)

(c) *the bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.*³

This assessment considers the need or otherwise to protect specific sites against the three purposes outlined above. These are considered to be the criteria for assessment.

The following section outlines how Council has interpreted the assessment criteria specifically. It also shows how the assessment has been undertaken using the assessment criteria.

5.1 Protection of the area

- Protection of the natural values of an area including ecosystems, biodiversity, plants and wildlife including the risk of damage by fire.
- Protection of the cultural values of an area including historic sites of significance to iwi and early settlement of the area.
- Protection of the amenity values of an area including residential and commercial areas (e.g. protection of views from residential and commercial properties, protection from noise from camping activity and arrival and departure of campers, loss of privacy).
- Protection of water quality of an area or catchment where run-off may impact on drinking water quality (e.g. protection of drinking water from contamination from human waste).
- Protection of the economic values of an area including residential and commercial areas (e.g. residential property values and loss of trade in commercial areas through occupation of car parks).
- Protection of the recreational values of an area including the capacity of a site, visitor experience and setting.

5.2 Protection of the health and safety of people who may visit the area

- Protection of visitors to an area from fire, crime or other direct threats (e.g. in areas in close proximity to high fire risk areas, or areas where there is a higher risk of crime, or direct treats such as flood or landslide risks).
- Protection of visitors to an area from hazards associated with traffic and traffic management including access to and from a site (including emergency vehicles).
- Protection of visitors from hazards associated with the land and topography.
- Protection of those using the area for other activities, such as sports grounds.
- Protection of the area from persistent vandalism and vagrancy.

³ Freedom Camping Act 2011, s11(2)(a)

5.3 Protection of access to the area

- Protection of access to an area for residents and other (non-camping) visitors (e.g. ability to access residential areas, boat ramps, foreshores, car parks, rivers, sports recreation and community facilities including cemeteries).
- Protection of access to an area for emergency services, service vehicles (e.g. rubbish trucks), public transport, school buses and maintenance vehicles.
- Protection of access to prevent unreasonable damage to Council infrastructure or significant flora and fauna.

6 Assessment Criteria under the Freedom Camping Act

The scoring method is based on the three assessment criteria set out in the Freedom Camping Act. Having determined the full criteria to ensure a fair and consistent assessment, each site has been allocated a score from 1 (being the lowest) to 5 (being the highest). The total score of each of the three criteria combined provides the total significance score.

If the significance score for any one of the three criteria (area protection, health and safety of people who may visit, access to the area) is 5, this means the site is deemed to have a “significant issue” and freedom camping may be prohibited or restricted.

Cumulatively over all three criteria, if the significance score is 9 or above, this means the site is determined to be a significant site and freedom camping may be prohibited or restricted. If the significance score is 8 or below, freedom camping may be permitted at the site. However, there could be some restrictions placed on the conditions specific to the type of camping at the site.

Assessment Scoring Method:

Protection of the Area – Cultural Significance, Historical Significance, Flora or Fauna	
1	No significant area concerns
2	Low concerns about areas that need protecting
3	Contains some areas that should be protected
4	Contains some significant historical, cultural or environmental areas.
5	Has historical, cultural or environmental significance and requires full protection

Protect the Health and Safety of those visiting the area	
1	No health and safety concerns
2	Low health and safety concerns
3	Minimal health and safety concerns (risk for the elderly/vulnerable or children)
4	Significant health and safety concerns
5	Risk to health and safety is too great to allow access to the site

Protection of the Access to the Area	
1	Fully formed access to the site
2	Good access to the site, which would not cause damage

3	Moderate access to the site, and any vehicle access would cause minimal damage
4	Restricted access to the site, and any vehicle access would cause damage
5	No access to the site, and any vehicle access would cause significant damage

7 Summary of Site Assessments

The following table provides an overview of site assessments undertaken. For more information about each area, review the detailed site assessments in section 8 of this document.

Area Name	Assessment				Assessment Outcome
	Protect Area (/5)	Protect H&S (/5)	Protect Access (/5)	Total (/15)	
Boyce Park	4	2	4	10	Restrict freedom camping at the Boyce Park to self-contained vehicles upon gaining prior consent from Council. Prior consent considered where other sites are unavailable and it does not affect commercial opportunities. <i>Would require an amendment to the Reserve Management Plan to include proposed freedom camping location for self-contained vehicles only.</i>
Firmin Field	4	3	2	9	Restrict freedom camping at the Firmin Field to self-contained vehicles only along the eastern edge of the carpark. Upon Council prior consent, parking on the field may be enabled for organised groups in self-contained vehicles along the north and eastern boundaries (10m from riverbank). Non-self-contained vehicles and tents may be considered for prior consent where associated with the hireage of Firmin Lodge. <i>Would require an amendment to the Reserve Management Plan to include different areas for self-contained vehicle being used for freedom camping on the reserve.</i>
Keith McKenzie Park	4	2	3	9	Prohibit freedom camping at Keith McKenzie Park in the proposed bylaw.
Lyn Hartley Reserve	3	2	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping at Lyn Hartley Reserve in the proposed bylaw.

Monika Lanham Reserve	5	4	3	12	Prohibit freedom camping at Monika Lanham Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Pat Baker/Dump Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping at Pat Baker Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Prideaux Park	4	4	2	10	Restrict freedom camping at to the south side of the entrance and behind the Sport Field Pavilion. <i>Would require an amendment to the Reserve Management Plan to include different areas for self-contained vehicle being used for freedom camping on the reserve.</i>
Roy Weston Walk	4	3	4	11	Prohibit freedom camping at Roy Weston Reserve and the adjacent road (Porritt Drive) in the proposed bylaw.
Ruruanga Reserve	4	1	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Ruruanga Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Stoneham Walk	5	3	4	12	Prohibit freedom camping from Stoneham Walk and associated car park (Fenton Mill Road) in the proposed bylaw.
Tarawera Park	2	3	4	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Tarawera Park and associated car park in the proposed bylaw.
River Road Reserve	5	4	4	13	Prohibit freedom camping from River Road Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Waterhouse Reserve	5	3	3	11	Restrict freedom camping at the Waterhouse Reserve, to organised groups, upon prior consent, for self-contained vehicles. Non-self-contained vehicles and tents may be considered for prior consent where associated with the hireage of Firmin Lodge. <i>Would require an amendment to the Reserve Management Plan to include proposed freedom camping location for self-contained vehicles only.</i>
Waterwheel Heritage Park	5	1	3	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Waterwheel Heritage Park in the proposed bylaw.
Stock Pound (Yet to be Named)	3	1	5	9	Prohibit freedom camping from the previous Stock Pound in the proposed bylaw.
Ballance/Seddon Street Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Ballance Street and Seddon Street Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Beattie/Shepherd Road Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Beattie Road and Shepherd Road Reserves in the proposed bylaw.

Boss Road Reserve	2	2	5	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Boss Road Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Cobham Drive Reserve	2	4	4	10	Prohibit freedom camping at Cobham Drive Reserve and the adjacent road (Cobham Drive and Holland Crescent) in the proposed bylaw.
Fraser Street Reserve	4	1	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Fraser Street Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Hadley Street Reserve	2	3	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Hadley Street Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Hilldale Reserve	2	3	4	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Hilldale Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
MacKenzie Street Reserve	2	3	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping from MacKenzie Street Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Porritt Glade Reserve	3	4	5	12	Prohibit freedom camping from Porritt Glade Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Recreation Centre Reserve	3	4	2	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Recreation Centre Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Robinson Street Reserve	2	4	4	10	Prohibit freedom camping from R Reserve and the adjacent road (Robinson Street) in the proposed bylaw.
Tuwharetoa Road Reserve	2	4	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Tuwharetoa Road Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Valley Road/Ryder Place Reserve	3	4	5	12	Prohibit freedom camping from Valley Road and Ryder Place Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Valley Road/Kirk Crescent Reserve	3	4	5	12	Prohibit freedom camping from Valley Road and Kirk Crescent Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Valley Road/Delamere Drive Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Valley Road and Delamere Drive Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Weld Street Reserve	2	4	3	9	Prohibit freedom camping at Weld Street Reserve and the adjacent road (Weld Street) in the proposed bylaw.
Beattie Road Reserve	3	2	4	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Beattie Road Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Fenton Street Reserve	3	1	5	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Fenton Street Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Owen/Julian Road Reserve	3	1	5	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Owen Road and Julian Road Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Reserve near Manukorihi Drive	4	1	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping at the reserve near Manukorihi Drive in the proposed bylaw.

Tamarangi Drive (north and south side of road)	3	2	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Tamarangi Drive and the adjacent road (Tamarangi Drive) Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Cemetery	5	4	3	11	Prohibit freedom camping from the cemetery and the road adjacent to the cemetery.
Circus Paddock	2	3	4	9	Restrict freedom camping at Circus Paddock to self-contained vehicles upon gaining prior consent from Council. Prior consent considered where other sites are unavailable and it does not affect commercial opportunities.
Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve	5	1	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping at the Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve in the proposed bylaw.

8 Site Assessments

8.1 Recreation Reserves – Important Reserves

Recreation reserves are created "...for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside".⁴

There are fifteen reserves in Kawerau which, because of their size, use, or importance to the Community can be regarded as 'important' reserves. Twelve of the reserves are recreation reserves and one is part of a utility reserve. The important reserves are:

Boyce Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 2 DPS 5883	4.0912	Recreation Reserve



⁴ Reserves Act 1977, section 17

Site description

Boyce Park is located along the western edge of the Tarawera River from Paramahana Drive in a southerly direction ending at Tarawera High School. This reserve is bordered by River Road on one side and the Tarawera River on the other.

The reserve is a large grassed reserve with large trees. There is a small paved parking areas on the southern end at the entrance from Waterhouse Street.

There is pedestrian access to the park from along Tamarangi Drive or River Road. A walking track follows the Tarawera River along a series of river banks and river flats through Boyce Park and extends beyond Boyce Park in both directions.

An important feature of this park is the access to the Tarawera River.

The paved off street parking area, is located adjacent to the Kawerau Judo and Martial Arts Club building. This parking area is used by the Kawerau Judo and Martial Arts Club during their use of the building.

The grassed area of the reserve is fenced off with locked gates to prevent damage and vandalism by vehicles.

The area is a designated dog exercise area.

There are no public facilities available.

In the current freedom camping bylaw, Council may grant approval for organised groups to freedom camp on Boyce Park. In these circumstances, Council would arrange for the gates to the reserve to be unlocked.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, and requires protection of the waterways from contamination.
Protect Health and Safety	2	Low health concerns due to the low use of the area.
Protect access	4	Off street parking is available for a small number of vehicles. This is largely use by vehicle associated with the judo Club. All grass areas are fenced with locked gates to protect the fields.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Boyce Park does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is currently prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977.

The current freedom camping bylaw allows restricted freedom camping at Boyce Park by organised groups, where granted approval by Council. Given the shortage of accommodation in Kawerau, and the possibility of Firmin Lodge/Field be rented, it is reasonable to have a couple of areas that may be made available where the need arises.

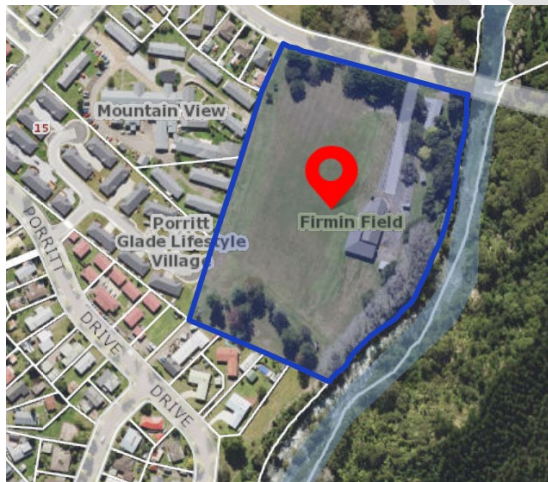
Based on this assessment, it is therefore recommended, that Council restrict freedom camping at Boyce Park. The restrictions are recommended to be as follows:

- Council will consider prior consent for organised groups where other permitted freedom camping areas are unlikely to be able to support the number of expected freedom campers.
- Freedom camping is only available to self-contained vehicles.
- All freedom campers must be a minimum of 10 metres from the bank along the eastern edge of the reserve.

This will need to be incorporated into the Reserve Management Plan to enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Firmin Field

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Lot 1 DPS 5882	3.63	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Firmin Field is located along the southern edge of Waterhouse Street and extends to the houses on Porritt Drive. On the eastern boundary is the Tarawera River and to the west is the Mountain View Resthome. Firmin Field is a large open grassed reserve. Along the edge of the river, trees and natural plants line the river banks. Trees also line the northern boundary of the field.

There is a large paved parking area on the north-eastern end of the reserve. Freedom camping is currently enabled at this location, where 6 powered sites are available (Keys available at the Isite).

Firmin Lodge (rental accommodation) is also located within the reserve, on the edge of the paving parking area. Freedom camping has the ability to impact of the accommodation

facilities due to the use of the shared parking facilities, noise and the perceived security of the facility.

Toilets are available at this site 24/7, along with a dump station for wastewater.

The reserve field is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area.

This area is a designated dog exercise area.

In the current freedom camping bylaw, Council may grant approval for organised groups to freedom camp on the grassed field and would consider the use of non-self-contained vehicles or tents. In these circumstances, Council would arrange for the gates to the reserve to be unlocked.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection of the waterways from contamination. The dump station and toilets provided may help minimise contamination of waterways. Fencing remains in place for grassed areas.
Protect Health and Safety	3	A dump station is available on site for the disposal of wastewater where required. Public toilets are available on site and are open 24/7 for, however the system was not purpose built for freedom camping purposes and sometimes struggles to meet demand. Parking area can become very busy during peak use, large vehicle can reduce visibility of pedestrians walking through the parking area.
Protect access	2	Good access and off street parking is available for vehicles, including six powered freedom camping parks. All grass areas are fenced with locked gates to protect the fields. Parking on the fields, with Council approval, may be available where conditions (weather, ground surface, visitor accommodation rental) are suitable, with parking restricted to the north edge of Firmin Field.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Firmin Field allows freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is enabled under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977.

Given the nature of the location, being a shared accommodation facility (which may include the field), Council needs to consider the availability of space for hirers of Firmin Lodge and disruptions to neighbouring properties. The grassed field is fenced off to avoid damage.

The current freedom camping bylaw allows restricted freedom camping on the grass field by organised groups, where approved by Council. Council was also enabled to consider the use of non-self-contained vehicles and tents. Given the shortage of accommodation in Kawerau, and the existing bylaw, it is reasonable to consider allowing the use of the grassed field in addition to the car parking area. However, consideration must be given to the accommodation bookings for Firmin Lodge, the weather, ground conditions and the type of freedom camping being undertaken.

While this is the only location in Kawerau District with a 24/7 toilet available on site, the infrastructure is not suitable to large numbers of campers that are not self-contained.

Based on this assessment, it is therefore recommended, that Council restrict freedom camping at Firmin Field. The restriction is recommended to be as follows:

- Freedom camping is only available to self-contained vehicles, in the marked parking areas (signs to be installed) along the eastern side of the Firmin Lodge carpark.
- Council will consider prior consent to use the grassed field for large organised groups, where parking is available along the north and eastern side of the field (10 metres back from the riverbank).
- Council will consider the use of non-self-contained vehicles and tents for organised groups when used in conjunction with the hireage of Firmin Lodge.
- Tents are prohibited from camping between the carpark and the river.
- All freedom campers must be a minimum of 10 metres from the riverbank along the eastern edge of the reserve.

While the Reserve Management Plan enables freedom camping on the Firmin Lodge carpark, only parking is currently enabled on the Firmin Field. These recommendations will need to be incorporated into the Reserve Management Plan.

Keith McKenzie Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 379 Matata Parish	0.4157	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Keith McKenzie Park provides a rest area for drivers with access off Tamarangi Drive (State Highway 34), opposite Kawerau's tennis and netball courts.

The park is a small grassed reserve with developed trees throughout. The Ruruanga Stream flows through the park, which is designated a Junior Anglers stream, to encourage children to take up trout fishing.

There is a small paved area to the west and the far side can be access by two small footbridges where there is a short scenic walk.

The reserve is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection of the waterways from contamination. Fencing is in place to minimise damage to sensitive areas.
Protect Health and Safety	2	Low health and safety concerns.
Protect access	3	There is good vehicle access to Keith MacKenzie Park. The park has a roundabout area in which short-term parking is available. Parking on the grass may damage the park, particularly when it is wet. The rest of the park has been fence to avoid vehicle access to prevent damage.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Keith McKenzie Park does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Keith McKenzie Park.

Lyn Hartley Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Lot 1 DPS 5882	2.13	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Lyn Hartley Reserve is located western bank of Tarawera River between Ward Street and Porritt Drive. The main part of the reserve is behind the houses on Porritt Drive and Payne Crescent.

Pedestrian access is available off Ward Street, River Road and through either Tarawera Park or Roy Weston Walk. Vehicle access is available through formed access ways off River Road and Ward Street. Both vehicle access points are via narrow sealed or partly sealed access strips. Once the alleys open up, vehicle access strips end. The vehicle access points are gated and locked, to avoid vehicles on the reserve and are maintained for maintenance purposes.

The reserve is a large grassed reserve with an overflow stream boarding the southwest edge of Lyn Hartley Reserve.

The reserve is a designated dog area.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection of the waterways from contamination.
Protect Health and Safety	2	Low health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	Vehicle access is excluded by locked gates to avoid damage to the grassed reserve. Pedestrian access is available.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Lyn Hartley Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Lyn Hartley Reserve within a proposed bylaw.

Monika Lanham Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 984 SO 46775 Matata Parish	19.5508 ha	Recreation Reserve
Allot 983 SO 46774 Matata Parish	19.6178 ha	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Monika Lanham Reserve is a dominant feature in Kawerau and is surrounded by residential streets on all sides. The reserve is a hill to the west of the town centre, and is covered in a mixture of native and exotic trees, with some grassed areas around the lower edges. The reserve is home to one threatened native species – a dwarf Mistletoe and a restoration program has been undertaken to reinstate native plants.

Pedestrian access is available from various points from River Road, Onslow Street, Glasgow Street, Fenton Mill Road, Savage Street and Fraser Street. The reserve is fenced off with locked gates.

There two vehicle access points. The first is from Fenton Mill Road, where there is a very small off street parking area for short term visitors to the site. The area is fenced beyond the small short term vehicle area, allowing pedestrian traffic only. The second vehicle

access is for maintenance vehicles and access to the water reservoirs and is fenced, gated and locked to prevent vehicle damage to the area.

The reservoirs are located on the northern end of the reserve and store the towns water supply.

There are walking tracks, along with mountain bike tracks throughout the reserve.

The north eastern edge of the reserve the is an area of about 1000m² of geothermally active land. Some steam comes from vents in the ground and sulphur smell is evident, but the surface is not known to be hot. This area is also fenced

The reserve contains archaeological sites including kumara pits, a sulphur mine and a pa site.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The reserve contains archaeological, culturally significant sites and community significant projects.
Protect Health and Safety	4	The northern edge of the reserve is geothermally active with some steam coming from vents in the ground and Sulphur smell being evident in the area. Entrance to this area is discouraged.
Protect access	3	There is good vehicle access to a small short term parking area off Fenton Mill Road. The rest of the park has been fence to avoid vehicle access and prevent damage.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Monika Lanham Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Monika Lanham Reserve within a proposed bylaw.

Pat Baker Reserve and Dump Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Allot 499 Matata Parish	59.4888 (total) 0.2550(Pat Baker Reserve)	Utility Reserve



Site description

Pat Baker Reserve is located off River Road at the southern end of Kawerau. The reserve itself is a flat grassed of approximately 2550sm² of the larger utility reserve known as the Dump Reserve.

Pat Baker Reserve lays between River Road on the east and the overflow stream on the west. Residential housing is to the north and the Dump Reserve to the south.

This reserve provides an attractive frontage to the Dump Reserve with mature trees lining the reserve and providing shade for visitors. A footpath runs along the roadside and provides access to the reserve for the community.

This reserve is designated as a dog walking area.

The larger Dump Reserve houses the water supply pump house, which provides the community with fresh water tap. The refuse transfer station and recycling facility are also located within the reserve accessed via the Transfer Station Road.

This reserve is very large and is largely covered in mature trees creating a natural bush setting.

Access to the Dump Reserve is through locked gates on Transfer Station Road. There is an additional entrance of River Road, providing access to the pump house, where short term parking is available for collecting water.

The reserve is largely fence off with locked gates, with the exception of Pat Baker Reserve and the pump house.

There are no public facilities on either reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The reserve has a number of trees providing shade and provides an attractive frontage for the Dump Reserve. The Dump reserve has culturally significant areas that require protection.
Protect Health and Safety	3	A footpath runs along the side of the road providing walkways and access to the reserve for the community. Trees will reduce visibility of vehicles trying to access the reserve and could endanger pedestrian users. Parking availability on the roadside is narrow and the reserve is located partly on the corner of River Road. Parking may create visibility restrictions for those using the roads or footpath around the reserve. This poses safety risk to pedestrians and other road users. There is no public toilets or facilities at this reserve. Enabling freedom camping would pose a health and safety risk due to no available space parking and the level of traffic on the Transfer Station Road.
Protect access	5	There is no vehicle access to this reserve. Driving over the concrete berm and footpath will cause damage over time. The reserve is planted with trees providing shade and reducing the ability for vehicle access. The dump reserve is closed to the public except for opening hours of 12 to 4pm. Short term parking is only available to customers using the reserve.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Pat Baker and Dump Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Pat Baker and Dump Reserve.

Prideaux Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 4 DPS 5882	7.8324	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This reserve is located immediately to the west of the town centre and is bounded by roadways. Tamarangi Drive to the north, Islington and Plunket Street to the east, Glasgow Street to the south and a combination of Massey Street and residential properties to the west.

Prideaux park incorporates the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre, Kawerau Bowling Club, the sports field and Sports Pavilion, the Rangi Delamere Centre and the netball/tennis courts.

The Ruruanga stream flows through the reserve along the western side with a small bridge that provides a walkway across the stream and up onto Massey Street.

There are five vehicle entrances into Prideaux Park, this includes two accessing the Maurie Kjar Centre carpark, one to the Rangi Delamere Centre carpark, one from Plunket Street to the Prideaux Park Pavilion and the final access is from Tamarangi Drive. The Tamarangi Drive entrance is used for maintenance vehicles and is gated and locked. There is an unformed track running along the flood control embankment alongside the Ruruanga Stream to the Prideaux Park Pavilion.

Pedestrian access is available from all sides. There are two footbridges within Prideaux Park. The first forms part of Hansen Walk which leads from the town centre to Massey Street. The second is further north and crosses the reserve onto the sports field.

A single red oak tree was planted in dedicated to the passing of Lady Baden Powell.

The reserve is a largely flat grassed area with a natural embankment from Ruruanga Stream to Massey Street. A flood control embankment on the northern bank of Ruruanga Stream is adjacent to the grassed athletic track, providing a good spectator viewing area.

Ruruanga Stream is planted with a mix of native and exotic trees, providing a semi-wilderness area.

The reserve field is fenced off with locked gates to protect the sports field.

There is a dump station located within the Prideaux Park reserve for the use of self-contained vehicles. This dump station would benefit from an upgrade to reduce blockages.

Prideaux Park is a designated dog exercise area.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

In the current freedom camping bylaw, Council provides for freedom camping behind the Prideaux Park Pavilion, behind the Kawerau Bowling Club and at the Maurie Kjar Swimming Pool carpark between 4pm and 9am. A dump station and four powered sites are available behind the Prideaux Park Pavilion. This area is restricted to self-contained vehicle only. Although not allowed under the bylaw, freedom camping has been allowed on the grassed field for some events, with Council permission. In these circumstances, Council would arrange for the gates to the reserve to be unlocked.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. Protection of the sport field is required, so designated parking areas help to minimise damage to the turf.
Protect Health and Safety	4	Prideaux Park has multiple areas and as such the health and safety risk differ across the Park. The Maurie Kaur Aquatic Centre and Bowling Club carpark, although good access is available, this carpark is frequently visited by children and vulnerable members of the community. Freedom camping vehicles can be large and reduce visibility creating a health and safety risk. Prideaux Park can be used for large events reducing the space available for freedom camping and creating a health and safety risk with vehicle movements unable to be managed. There may be times in which Prideaux Park should be closed to enable safer event management.
Protect access	2	Sealed vehicle access is available across the reserve including the Maurie Kaur Aquatic Centre, the Rangi Delamere Centre and the Sport Field Pavilion via a driveway off Plunket Street. Off street parking for freedom camping is currently available behind the Sports Pavilion. There is also 4 powered site available at this location. There is a large carpark in front of the Maurie Kaur Centre and the Bowling Club providing off street parking.

		The Sports field is fenced off with a low fence and locked gate to ensure vehicles do not access the field without Council permission.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Prideaux Park allows freedom camping in self-contained vehicle behind Prideaux Park Pavilion; therefore, freedom camping is enabled under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977.

Given the nature of the location, Council does need to consider options where the Prideaux Park is hired out for large events and how to manage the use of the Maurie Kjar car park to minimise health and safety concerns. Some concerns have also been raised around the perceived safety in this area.

The current freedom camping allows restricted freedom camping in self-contained vehicle only behind the Prideaux Park Pavilion. Freedom campers have taken it upon themselves to extend the area to include the grassed area located directly north of the Bowling Club fence. In addition, although the freedom camping bylaw does not currently extend to the grassed field area, Council has approved freedom camping on the reserve for weekend events.

Given the current use of Prideaux park, it is reasonable to consider extending the options available to freedom campers at Prideaux Park, however consideration must be given to the existing and possible future use of the reserve.

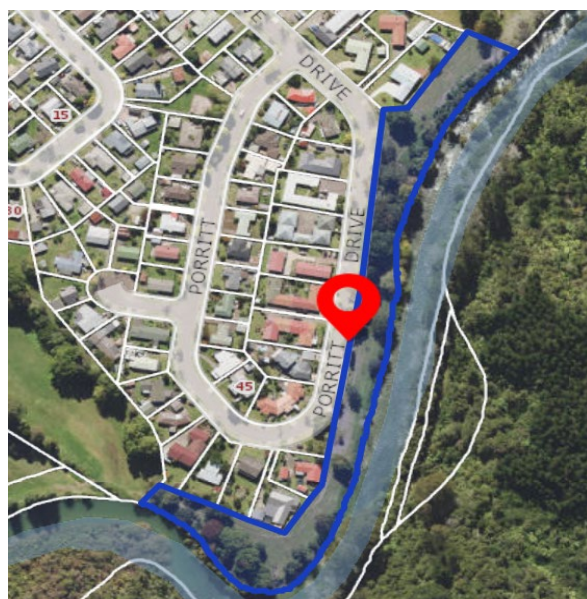
Based on this assessment and the above comments, it is therefore recommended, that Council restrict freedom camping at Prideaux Park. The restrictions are recommended to be as follows:

- Freedom camping is only available to self-contained vehicles, behind Prideaux Park and the Bowling Club, or where no events are being held, freedom campers may use the grassed area along the boundary between the Bowling Club and the Prideaux field (as shown in the proposed freedom camping bylaw).
- Freedom camping is available along the Eastern edge of the Maurie Kjar carpark in self-contained vehicles only, between the hours of 4pm and 9am.
- Council will consider prior consent for the use of Prideaux Park grassed sports field for organised groups, upon consideration of upcoming events, weather and ground condition.

While the Reserve Management Plan enables freedom camping at Prideaux Park, this only enables parking behind Prideaux Park Pavilion. These recommendations will need to be incorporated into the Reserve Management Plan.

Roy Weston Walk

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 552 Matata Parish	1.3378	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Roy Weston Walk is located along the western edge of the Tarawera River and provides a scenic walk between Firmin Field and Lyn Hartley Reserve.

The walk is a grassed reserve following the edge of the Tarawera River. The edge of the river in some places is lined with trees providing shade. There are a number of park benches for families to picnic.

This area is popular to locals and tourist alike, providing for a scenic view over the river where the white water section commences.

There are a few off street parking spaces along the southeast end of Porritt Drive to enable visitor to park while frequenting the location. There is also a gravel turning area with some parking on the reserve at the southern end of Porritt Drive.

This reserve forms part of a longer scenic walk following the river's edge.

The reserve is not fenced off, however small fences run across the reserve to reduce the ability to drive through the reserve area.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection of the waterways. Fencing remains in place for grassed areas.

		The reserve is directly across the road from residential properties, which may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	3	A footpath runs along the side of the road providing walkways and access to the reserve for the community. Trees will reduce visibility of vehicles trying to access the reserve and could endanger pedestrian users. Off street parking is available for short-term users only. The roadside is narrow so is not suitable for parking and may create visibility restrictions for those using the roads or footpath around the reserve. This poses safety risk to pedestrians and other road users. There is no public toilets or facilities at this reserve.
Protect access	4	Porritt Drive is narrow and provides little room for on street parking. Parking is available for short term parking only. Long term restricts visibility for residential properties. There is a small area for off street parking which forms part of the leased area by the Judo Club. off street parking There is no vehicle access to this reserve. Driving over the concrete berm and footpath will cause damage over time. The reserve is planted with trees providing shade and reducing the ability for vehicle access.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Roy Weston Walk does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Roy Weston Walk and Porritt Drive.

Ruruanga Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 581 Matata Parish	0.7992	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Ruruanga Reserve is located along the northern edge of Glasgow Street, west of the Maurie Kaur Aquatic Centre.

The Ruruanga Stream flows through the reserve from the west before heading north into Prideaux Park. The area is grassed with trees providing a scenic area to visit and walk through.

There is no vehicle access to the Ruruanga Reserve.

No public facilities are available at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns due to limited access to foot traffic only.
Protect access	5	There is no vehicle access to Ruruanga Reserve. Access is likely to cause damage to the kerb and the grounds.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Ruruanga Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Ruruanga Reserve.

Stoneham Walk

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Allot 1546 Matata Psh	2.1626	Recreation Reserve
Lot 1 DPS 77805	5.6550	
Pt Lot 85 DPS 9663	1.5715	Esplanade Reserve
Part Allot 580 Matata Psh	2.6240	Recreation Reserve
Lot 86 DPS 9663	0.0501	Esplanade Reserve
Pt Allot 39 Matata Psh	0.007 hectares	Recreation Reserve





Site description

Stoneham Walk Reserve is located off Fenton Mill Road and runs between Bell Street and Valley Road. Stoneham Walk is sited in a shallow gully, through the centre of which flows the Ruruanga Stream. The gully runs roughly east to west.

Pedestrian access to the Walk is from Bell Street, Opunoke Drive, Valley Road, Blundell Avenue and Fenton Mill Road. Vehicle access is via Bell Street, Opunoke Drive and Blundell Avenue. Each of these access points are gated and locked to prevent vehicles access, except for maintenance and emergency services.

There is vehicle access and off street parking available on the south east edge of Stoneham Walk, off Fenton Mill Road, known as the five rocks carpark. The purpose of the carpark is to enable short-term parking for visitor walking through Stoneham Walk.

Stoneham Walk now consists of two areas either side of the Ruruanga Stream. Each side is of almost even proportion. The northern side runs adjacent to a residential housing area. The southern side runs along Fenton Mill Road for a short length, and then is bordered by land owned by Council and residential houses.

The Walk development incorporates a rose garden, stone bridge, sealed walkways, pedestrian bridges across the Ruruanga Stream, raised perennial gardens and a pergola.

The reserve has been extensively planted over the years and maintains a mixture of young and older trees. The reserve is a very scenic reserve popular with the local community and visitors.

Stoneham Walk is fenced with locked gates to prevent vehicle damage and access to the reserve.

The area is a designated on dog exercise area.

No public facilities are available at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and are culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection.

Protect Health and Safety	3	Stoneham walk is a popular spot for walking, picnics, wedding ceremonies and exercising the family dog. The introduction of vehicles would pose a health and safety risk due to the contour of the area and shared use without formed access ways.
Protect access	4	Short-term visitor parking is available off Fenton Mill Road for visitors. Stoneham reserve is fenced off with locked gates to prevent vehicle access.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Stoneham Walk Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Stoneham Walk Reserve and the parking area off Fenton Mill Drive, within a proposed bylaw.

Tarawera Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 505 Matata Psh	15.8077	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Tarawera Park Reserve is located off Cobham Drive to the south-east of Kawerau town centre. The Tarawera Reserve is bordered by residential housing to the west and the Tarawera River to the East. The northern end is bordered by Lyn Hartley Reserve and on the southern edge is the Kauerua Golf Course.

The reserve is a large grassed area with large trees around the boundaries, by the river and lining the tar sealed access way. The reserve includes the main rugby and soccer grounds, providing four full sized fields.

Within the Tarawera Park, there is a group of building providing the changing rooms, Sports Club and Gym. Surrounding the buildings is a large paved car parking around. During 9am – 5pm or organised events, the entrance gates are unlocked for the public which enable vehicles access to the parking area.

Underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

The grassed areas is fenced off to protect the sports ground from vehicle damage.

The area is a designated on dog exercise area.

The toilet block at the reserve is kept locked unless specifically requested by Park users due to vandalism.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. This area is fenced off from other areas. Designated parking areas are available to ensure damage to the sports field turf is minimised. These areas are fenced off from the car parking and clubrooms and amenity. Underground waste water and water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	3	Trees will reduce visibility of vehicles trying to access the reserve and could endanger pedestrian users. Public facilities are not available unless specifically organised or associated with an event. While there is significant parking available, this soon becomes overrun during sporting or other organised events. Enabling freedom camping on this reserve would give rise to additional parking problems. Roadside parking around the reserve is narrow and will increase health and safety concerns with the combination of foot and vehicle traffic.
Protect access	4	Event parking is available at Tarawera Park between 9am and 5pm or during events. Tarawera Reserve is fenced off with locked gates to prevent vehicle access outside of these hours as a result of ongoing vandalism to the fields and fences.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Tarawera Park Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Tarawera Reserve (including the car park area), within a proposed bylaw.

River Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Pt Lot 2 DPS 5883	2.2450	Recreation Reserve



Site description

River Road Reserve is a long thin strip of land located between Boyce Park (to the north) and Waterhouse Reserve (to the South). Incorrectly referenced in this map as Waterhouse Street Reserve as the two reserves are linked. It is bordered by the Tarawera River to the east and Tarawera High School to the west.

The reserve is undulating with a combination of river flats and steep banks. The reserve is largely grassed with mature trees.

No public facilities are available.

Underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

The reserve is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The Tarawera River and esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is

		both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. Underground storm water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	4	This area is used by pedestrians for recreational purposes such as walking their dogs and exercising. The introduction of vehicles would pose a health and safety risk due to the contour of the area and shared use without formed access ways.
Protect access	4	There is no vehicle access to this reserve and no formed access ways. Each end is fenced to enable foot traffic only.
Total Score	13	

Recommendation

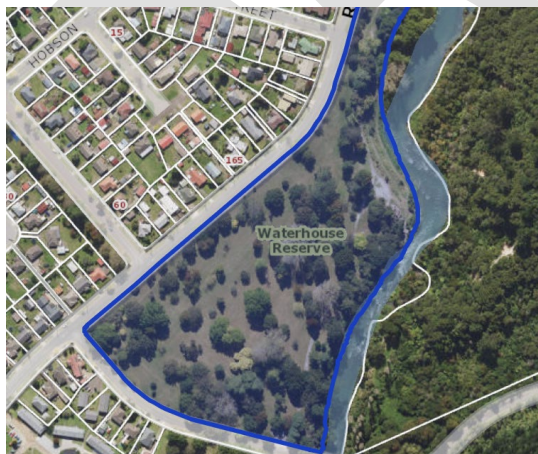
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping at River Road Reserve; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the River Road Reserve.

Waterhouse Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Pt Lot 2 DPS 5883	6.1835	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Waterhouse Reserve is located between Tarawera High School and Waterhouse Street. On the eastern edge of the reserve is the Tarawera River and to the west is River Road.

The reserve is a large grassed reserve with large trees providing shade and a scenic atmosphere. While the contour is largely flat, it becomes steep on the river edges. Natural

bush has been retained along the river edges, which helps to provide a natural barrier for the steep areas.

There are large established trees throughout the reserve.

There is a small paved parking area on the southern end of the reserve of Waterhouse Street. This parking is available for short term visitor to the areas utilising the river tracks for recreational purposes.

This can be a popular area with the development of the kayak course, judging platforms, walkways and spectator viewing areas.

The reserve has an unsealed vehicle access way used for maintenance or event requirements. However, the reserve is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from damage.

A pedestrian track is formed along the riverbank, which forms part of the walkway from Tarawera Park through to the Waterwheel Heritage Park.

There are no public facilities available in this reserve, however the Firmin Field Reserve is directly across the road.

Underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

In the current freedom camping bylaw, Council may grant approval for organised groups to freedom camp on Waterhouse Reserve. In these circumstances, Council would arrange for the gates to the reserve to be unlocked.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The Tarawera River and esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. Underground storm water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	3	This area is used by pedestrians for recreational purposes such as walking their dogs and exercising. The introduction of vehicles would pose a health and safety risk, particularly due to the number of trees established within the reserve making parking and visibility more difficult.
Protect access	3	Sealed vehicle access is available off Waterhouse Street, however this is locked to monitor access and avoid damage. This access also provides for a small number of off street parking for short term visitors to the reserve.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping for Waterhouse Reserve; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

The current freedom camping bylaw allows restricted freedom camping at Waterhouse Reserve by organised groups, where granted approval by Council.

The current freedom camping bylaw allows restricted freedom camping on the grass field by organised groups, where approved by Council. Given the shortage of accommodation in Kawerau, and the possibility of Firmin Lodge/Field be rented, it is reasonable to have a couple of areas that may be made available where the need arises.

Based on this assessment, it is therefore recommended, that Council restrict freedom camping at Waterhouse Reserve. The restriction is recommended to be as follows:

- Council will consider prior consent for organised groups where other permitted freedom camping areas are unlikely to be able to support the number of expected freedom campers.
- Freedom camping is only available to self-contained vehicles.
- All freedom campers must be a minimum of 10 metres from the river bank.
- Council will consider the use of non-self-contained vehicles and tents for organised groups when used in conjunction with the hireage of Firmin Lodge.

This will need to be incorporated into the Reserve Management Plan to enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Waterwheel Heritage Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 1 DP 395904	2.9079	Recreation Purposes - Land Held for Conservation Purposes
Sec 1 SO 406753	2.5957	Recreation Purposes - Land Held for Conservation Purposes



Site description

Waterwheel Heritage Park is located between Spencer Avenue and the Tarawera River. The reserve is bordered by Tamarangi Drive to the south, runs behind the commercial properties along Spencer Avenue and stops behind the Council Dog Pound. Tarawera River runs along the eastern edge.

The reserve is a large grassed reserve with large trees and some natural bush along the rivers each.

The reserve is fenced off with locked gates.

An underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

Until recently, this reserve was leased to the Waterwheel Historic Trust which installed an operational waterwheel. The site was to be used for restoring historic equipment for tourists and training students.

No public facilities are available.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The Tarawera River and esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. Underground storm water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	1	Park is low use and is isolated.
Protect access	3	The reserve is fenced and has no formed access or formalised parking area.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

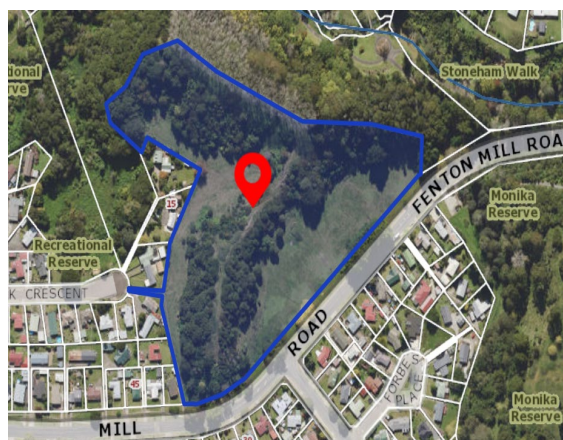
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on Waterwheel Heritage Park; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Waterwheel Heritage Reserve.

Stock Pound (Yet to be officially named)

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 2 DPS 77805	5.439	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Kawerau District Council recently completed a reserve swap which resulted in the former Stock Pound (yet to be officially named), being newly designated as a recreational reserve. This area sits to the west of Fenton Mill Road and has foot access from Kirk Crescent and Fenton Mill Road.

The previous stock pound, is a large flat grassed area with a ridge running from north to south. The undulating ridge is covered in a mix of exotic and native trees.

This reserve is currently fenced and gated, providing no vehicle access, except for maintenance. There is no off street parking available and the large grass verge running along the front of the reserve is fenced off to prevent vehicle damage.

This reserve will subject of future development as a recreational reserve enabling a community space for all ages.

No public facilities are available.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This reserve has some cultural significance, which would be protected in development. Some native trees are on this reserve, however it is largely exotic trees. This area is set for future development as a community space for families of all ages.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns. No public facilities may create health and safety concerns where opened for freedom camping.
Protect access	5	Development of this area is yet to commence. The reserve is fenced off and gated, providing no vehicle access. A kerb and concrete footpath runs along the roadside of this reserve and enabling access could damage this infrastructure.

Total Score	9	
--------------------	---	--

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan is being updated to include the former Stock Pound; it is proposed this area will not enable freedom camping as Council wish to develop it into a community friend outdoor space. Where this is approved, freedom camping will be prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the former Stock Pound Reserve, within a proposed bylaw, at least until development plans are finalised.

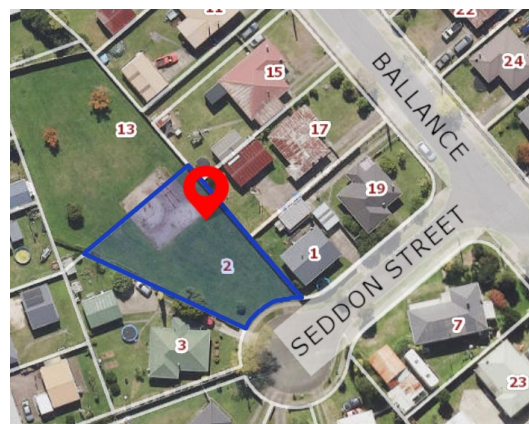
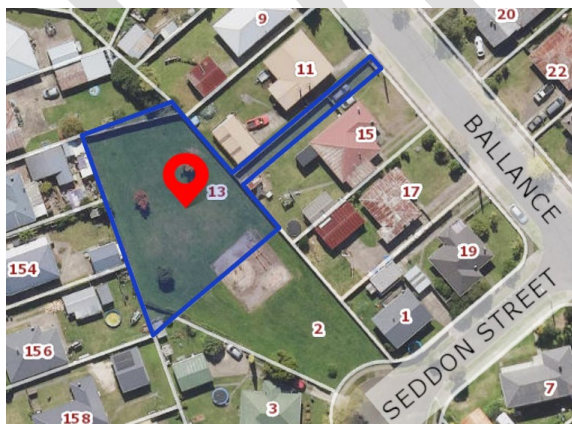
8.2 Recreation Reserves – Neighbourhood Reserves

Neighbourhood reserves are generally smaller and less developed than important reserves. They general offer informal recreational opportunities and may have playgrounds and other active play areas for children, as well as some trees.

The primary purpose of neighbourhood reserves is to provide a place for casual or passive recreational opportunities for neighbouring residents. Council’s objectives are to develop and maintain neighbourhood reserves in a way that will encourage casual and passive recreation and active child's play, and to retain these reserves as an open space for the benefit of all users. Development may include tree planting, playground construction, drainage, contouring and fencing.

Ballance/Seddon Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 118 DPS 4502	0.1329	Recreation Reserve
Lot 122 DPS 4502	0.0800	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is located off Seddon Street to the south of the town centre, but centrally located within Kawerau. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties from Seddon, Ballance and Onslow Streets.

The reserve can be accessed of Seddon Street. It is a small flat grassed reserve with a few small trees and a small playground.

The reserve contains no off street parking and has walking access only from Seddon Street. The reserve is fenced.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	Vehicles may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and surrounded by residential properties which will have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The reserve has low use. Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities will provide a health and safety risk.
Protect access	5	No vehicle access or parking available. Vehicle would have to cross the kerb which may cause damage. Vehicular access will reduce the suitability of the reserve to be used for neighbourhood kids.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

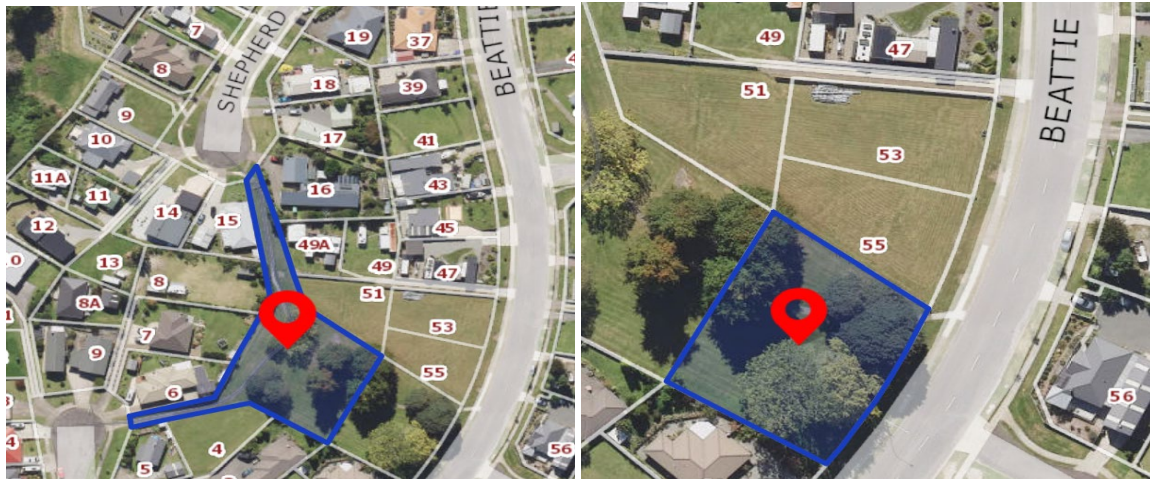
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Balance/Seddon Street Reserve.

Beattie/Shepard Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 239 DPS 35475	0.2593	Recreation Reserve
Lot 1004 DPS 35472	0.1387	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is located off Beattie Avenue to the south west of Kawarau. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties. Currently to the north of the reserve, three sections remain undeveloped.

This neighbourhood reserve has pedestrian access from Beattie Road, Doug Wilson Drive and Shepard Road. The reserve is a small grassed area with well-developed trees providing a shaded pathed walkway to adjoin streets.

There is no off street parking available and there is a small fence restricting access to the grass area to prevent damage.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	Vehicles may damage the grassed area and the roots of the trees. The reserve is small and surrounded by residential properties which will have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The reserve is used by the neighbours for walking, dog exercise and as access to nearby streets. Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities will provide a health and safety risk. Navigating the trees will create an extra risk for vehicles and pedestrians.
Protect access	5	No vehicle access or parking available. Vehicle would have to cross the kerb, which may cause damage. Vehicular access will reduce the suitability of the reserve to be used for neighbourhood kids.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Beattie/Sheppard Road Reserve.

Boss Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 1318 Matata Psh	0.1643	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbour reserve is located off Boss Road which is to the western edges of Kawerau. The reserve is neighboured by a couple of residential properties and backs onto farmland.

This neighbourhood reserve has pedestrian access only, from Boss Street. The reserve is a very small grassed area with well-developed trees providing a shade. There is open space for playing with a park bench at the rear of the reserve.

There is no off street parking available and there is a small fence with locked gate restricting access to the grass area to prevent damage.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	Vehicles or camping may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and slightly sloped.
Protect Health and Safety	2	The reserve has low use. Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities will provide a health and safety risk to other users.
Protect access	5	No vehicle access or parking available. Vehicle would have to cross the kerb, which may cause damage. Vehicular access will reduce the suitability of the reserve to be used for neighbourhood kids.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

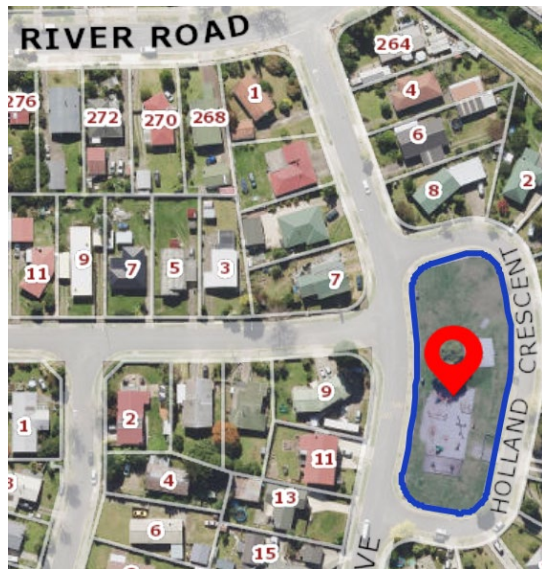
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is still prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Boss Road Reserve.

Cobham Drive Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 156 DPS 9932	0.2712	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is located on Cobham Drive and encircled by Holland Crescent, which is towards the southern end of Kawerau.

This neighbourhood reserve has pedestrian access from Holland Crescent and Cobham Drive. The reserve is a grassed area with a large children's playground and basketball hoop. There are park benches available.

The reserve is fenced off.

There is two off street carparks. These are not sealed and one is grassed.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, other than a rubbish bin.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	Vehicles or camping may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and surrounded by residential properties which may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.

Protect Health and Safety	4	The playground on the reserve attracts recreational users and children. Camping and vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users of the playground and site.
Protect access	4	There is a formed vehicle access but this only services one of the two parking spots. The second spot would require a vehicle to drive over the concrete kerb and park on the grass which may cause damage. The area is completely fenced, removing access to the park area. The road is very narrow. Parking on the roadside may cause blockage of the surrounding road network.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Cobham Drive Reserve and the adjacent roads (Holland Crescent).

Fraser Street/River Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Pt Lot1 DPS 5882	1.09	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This reserve is located south of Fraser Street, behind Kawerau South School and next to the southern edge of Monika Lanham Reserve.

This neighbourhood reserve is a large grassed reserve used for the Kawerau Urban Food Garden.

There are no off street parking available and no vehicle access to the reserve. The only access is pedestrian access from River Road near the overflow stream, just south of the Fraser Street Entrance.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The reserve is used for the Kawerau Urban Food Garden and backs on to the school grounds.
Protect Health and Safety	1	The reserve has low use.
Protect access	5	There is no vehicle access to the Fraser Street Reserve. The only access is by foot from River Road along the side of a small stream or through the rear of the Kawerau South School off Onslow Street. Any vehicle access would need to be across private land or Public School property, with the risk of damaging private land or school property.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Fraser Street Reserve.

Hadley Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 96 DPS 27245	0.2300	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Hadley Street Reserve is located between Hadley Street and Windley Place. This reserve is bordered by residential properties on all sides.

This reserve is a small grassed reserve with a couple of large trees providing shade in a couple of locations. There is a park bench along the side of the paved walking track between the two streets.

There are no off street parking available and no vehicle access to the reserve. The reserve has been fenced off to enable pedestrian access only.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	Vehicles or camping may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and surrounded by residential properties which will have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The reserve is used by the neighbours for walking, dog exercise and as access to nearby streets. Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities may provide a health and safety risk.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking or formed vehicle access onto the reserve. Vehicles parked on the narrow cul-de-sac on both ends may block the surrounding roading network and property access. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicle access may result in this being used as a thoroughfare causing damage to the grassed area.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

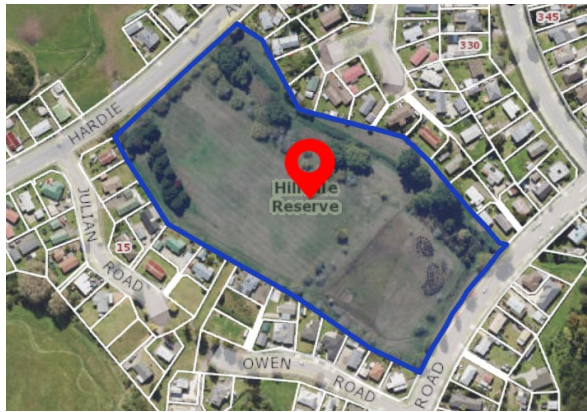
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Fraser Street Reserve.

Hilldale Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 116 DPS 34299	4.2753	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Hilldale Reserve is located between Hardie Avenue and Beattie Avenue and has residential properties extending along the northeast and southwest sides.

This reserve is a passive reserve and is the only authorised reserve in which golf practice is allowed. A children's playground is located in the north-western corner off Hardie Road. This reserve is also a designated dog walking area, excluding the playground area.

This reserve forms part of the storm water system with the overflow drain flowing along the northeast boundary.

Due to high water table in the area, the Hilldale reserve may become water logged during rain events or over winter periods. This poses a health and safety issue to users of the reserve.

Vehicle entrance have been established of both Hardie and Beattie Road, however the reserve is fenced off and have locked gates. Access is restricted to prevent damage to the grassed reserve, particularly in the wetter months.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	The reserve is used by the neighbours for walking, dog exercise and as access to nearby streets. Vehicles may damage the grassed area. Due to the high water table, this area can get wet, which would result in excessive damage. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties which may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	3	Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities, may provide a health and safety risk to other users.
Protect access	4	There is no off-street parking or formed vehicle paths within the reserve. Vehicle access may result in this being used as a thoroughfare causing damage to the grassed area.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Hilldale Reserve.

MacKenzie Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 58 DPS 7302	0.2412	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is located on MacKenzie Street and has residential properties on three sides. This reserve has limited trees around the outside of the reserve. The trees along the front are small and still developing.

The reserve is a grassed area with five playground areas dotted across the reserve and a park bench.

Pedestrian access is only available from MacKenzie Street. There is no formed vehicle access to the reserve. No off street parking is available and MacKenzie Street is narrow, making parking on the roadside restrictive.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	Vehicles may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and surrounded by residential properties which will have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The playground on the reserve is set up to attract families with young children. Camping and vehicle movements on

		the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users of the playground and site.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking or formed access into this reserve. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow road, may block easy access of the surrounding roading network.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the MacKenzie Reserve.

Porritt Drive Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 528 Matata Parish	0.1021	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Porritt Reserve is located on the eastern side of Porritt Drive and runs between Porritt Drive and Ward Street. This reserve is surrounded by residential properties.

Porritt Reserve has a playground located largely in the centre of the reserve, with a park bench. There are a few trees in the small reserve which would limit vehicle access as it would risk damaging to the playground or tree roots.

Pedestrian access is available from Porritt Drive and Ward Street with a pathed footpath covering the length of the reserve.

No off street parking is available at this reserve and these roads are narrow making them unsuitable to longer-term parking. There is no vehicle access from either end of the reserve, with Ward Street entrance being too narrow to provide the stand width driveway. Fencing is in place on both ends of the reserve to prevent vehicle access.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	Vehicles or camping may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and surrounded by residential properties, which will have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	4	The playground on the reserve is set up to attract families with young children. Limited space within the reserve to manoeuvre a vehicle will pose a safety risk to other users of the reserve.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking or formed access into this reserve. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow road, may block easy access of the surrounding roading network.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

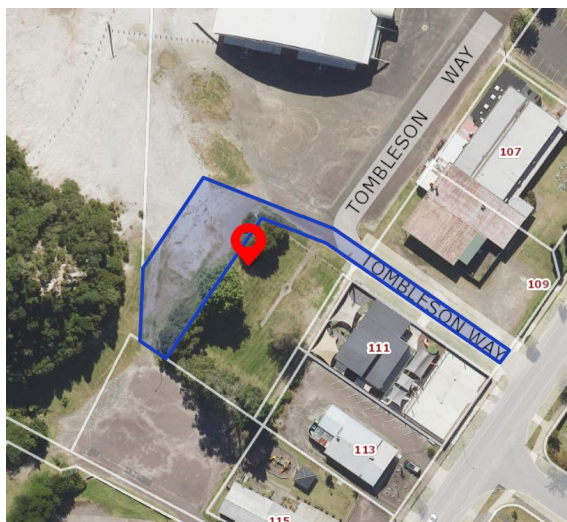
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Porritt Reserve.

Recreation Centre Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Lot 3 DPS 5500	1.3441	Recreation Reserve
Part Allot 501 Parish of Matata	0.0080	
Lot 1 DPS 60987	0.1760	Recreation Reserve
Lot 2 DPS 60987	0.1293	Recreation Reserve
Allot 502 Matata Psh	0.1691	Carpark Reserve
Lot 1 DPS 29708	0.1392	Recreation Reserve



Site description

The Recreation Centre Reserve is located between Glasgow Street and Tombleson Way and is home to the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre. This reserve sits to the north-west of the Cosmopolitan Club (Onslow Street) and backs onto Monika Lanham Reserve to the west.

This reserve incorporates a basketball court, playground, the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre and a sealed parking area. A small area of this reserve is grassed.

Directly next to this reserve, is approximately 1000m² of geothermally active land. Some steam comes through vents in the ground and a sulphur smell is evident. While the area is not considered dangerous and is not hot, there is some unpredictability and as a result this area is surrounded by a low fence to discourage entry.

Geothermal gases can be dangerous at high concentrations and levels are monitored as required, at the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre.

Vehicle access is available from Onslow Street and the reserve has a large paved area with unmarked parking available.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin.

Underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

In the current freedom camping bylaw, Council may grant approval for organised groups to freedom camp on the sealed car park, in self-contained vehicles only.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The Recreation Centre sits within this reserve. The availability and use of the facility may be reduced where large numbers of freedom campers are parking in this area. Underground storm water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	4	Geothermal gases can be dangerous when found in high concentrations, this makes freedom camping in this area unsuitable for tenting and gas levels should be monitored if allowing self-contained vehicle. Unmarked parking creates a health and safety risk to other users Parking on the grassed area would pose a safety risk to users of the park and basketball court.
Protect access	2	Vehicle access and off-street parking is available, however this is not marked.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

The current freedom camping bylaw allows restricted freedom camping at the Recreation Reserve by organised groups, where granted approval by Council in an area in front of the Recreation Centre. This is in conflict with the Reserve Management Plan.

Although previously enable in the existing bylaw, this location was very seldom used or requested for freedom camping. There is an unpredictability of geothermal activity and the closeness of this area to active geothermal land, gives raise to some health and safety concerns.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended, that Council prohibit freedom camping at Recreation Centre Reserve.

Robinson Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 106 DPS 3393	0.1110	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is encircled by Robinson Street. This reserve is a grassed reserve with a central playground with three trees located on in the north and south eastern corners. There is one park bench located under the trees.

This neighbourhood reserve has pedestrian access from Robinson Street and Cobham Drive.

There is no off street parking at this reserve and the road surrounding the reserve is narrow, with one half being only a single lane. They is no formed access way onto the reserve.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, other than a rubbish bin.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	Vehicles or camping may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and surrounded by residential properties which may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.

Protect Health and Safety	4	The playground on the reserve attracts recreational users and children. Camping and vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users.
Protect access	4	A concrete berm runs along the edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. The road is very narrow. Parking on the roadside may cause blockage of the surrounding road network. Access to the site will impact on families using the playground.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Robinson Street Reserve and Robinson Street.

Tuwharetoa Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 40 DPS 26873	0.1445	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Tuwharetoa Road Reserve is located off the south side of Tuwharetoa Road. The reserve has pedestrian access from both Tuwharetoa Road and Hahuru Road. The reserve has a playground and park bench attracting families. There are a couple of young trees planted to provide shade in the future.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin by the park.

The reserve is fully fenced off, allowing pedestrian access but not vehicles, protecting both users of the reserve and protecting the grass from damage from vehicle.

There is no off street parking.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	Vehicles may damage the grassed area or the playground given the location. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties, freedom camping may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	4	The playground on the reserve attracts recreational users and children. Vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking and is currently fenced off to protect the area. A concrete kerb and footpath runs along the road edge of the reserve and concrete footpaths are throughout the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and footpaths potentially causing damage.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

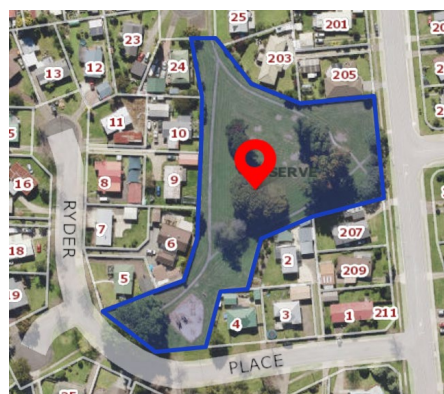
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Tuwharetoa Road Reserve.

Valley Road/Ryder Place Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 85 DPS 30067	0.7924	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Valley Road and Ryder Place reserve is located on the northern side of Ryder Place. This reserve is a grassed reserve with well-developed trees spread throughout the reserve. There are paved walkways throughout the reserve leading to the three access points, being Valley Road, Ryder Place and Syme Crescent.

There is a playground for families directly of the Ryder Place entrance.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin by the park.

The reserve is fully fenced off, allowing pedestrian access, but not vehicles protecting both users of the reserve and protecting the grass from damage from vehicle.

There is no off street parking.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	Vehicles may damage the grassed area. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties, freedom camping may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	4	The playground on the reserve attracts recreational users and children. Vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking and is currently fenced off to protect the area. A concrete kerb and footpath runs along the road edge of the reserve and concrete footpaths are throughout the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and footpaths potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow side roads accessing the reserve, may block access to the surrounding roading network and properties.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

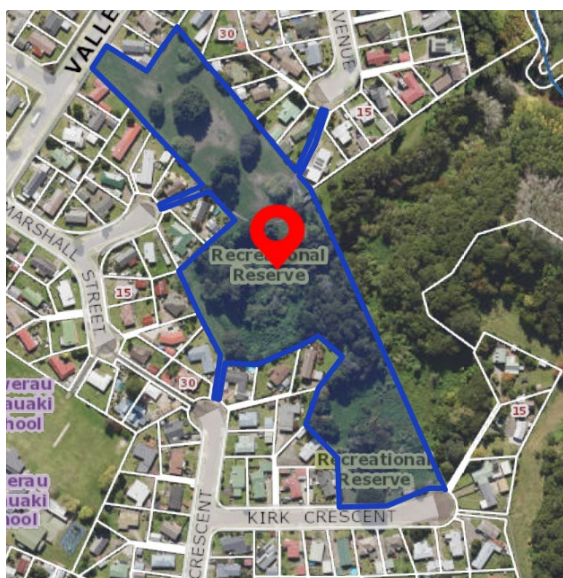
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Valley Road/Ryder Place Reserve.

Valley Road/Kirk Crescent Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 1547 Matata Parish	2.9502	Recreation Reserve



Site description

The Valley Road Kirk Crescent Reserve located between Valley Road and Kirk Crescent. This reserve can be accessed from multiple places including Marshall Street, Blundell Avenue, Valley Road and Kirk Crescent.

The north most area of the reserve is a flat grassed area with well-developed trees, providing a great picnic area for families. This part of the reserve also provides easy access to neighbouring streets and Stoneham Walk. The remaining area is an undulating bush area.

This reserve is a dog friendly reserve.

The reserve is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	Vehicles may damage the grassed area. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties, freedom camping may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity. The bush area needs to be protected in its natural state.
Protect Health and Safety	4	The bush area is very steep in places posing a health and safety risk, for vehicles and users. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking and the reserve is fenced off to protect the area.

		A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the road edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow roads accessing the reserve, may block easy access of the surrounding roading network.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Valley Road/Kirk Crescent Reserve.

Valley Road/Delamere Drive Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 45 DPS 30483	0.4707	Recreation Reserve
Lot 48 DPS 30482	0.5624	Recreation Reserve
Lot 83 DPS 30068	0.0540	Recreation Reserve





Site description

Valley Road, Delemare Road and Ryder Place Reserves are located to the south west of Kawerau. The reserves lay behind Delemare Road, from the end of Valley Road to Ryder Place. Pedestrian access points include Valley Road, Delemare Road and Ryder Place.

These three reserves form one large, grassed reserve. The reserve is undulating with large trees providing shade for users. This reserve is a designation dog exercise area.

The reserve is fenced off to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area and also the safety of users.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	Vehicles may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and surrounded by residential properties, which will have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The reserve is available for all pedestrians to share including dog owners exercising their family pets. Enabling access to vehicles would pose a health and safety risk to other users of the reserve. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking or formed access into this reserve. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the road edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow roads accessing the reserve, may block easy access of the surrounding roading network.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Valley Road/Delamare Drive Reserve.

Weld Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 52 DPS 4603	0.0840	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Weld Street Reserve is located in the middle of Weld Street. Weld Street splits around both sides of the reserve, creating an island in the middle of the roadway.

Weld Street Reserve consists of a flat grassed area with a playground and swings at the northern end of the reserve. The reserve has one large tree providing some shade to the playground area and amenity value. The park is used by the local community.

There is no parking area available. Weld Street is narrow, so freedom campers parked on the road may cause access issues.

Fencing is in place providing some protection along the eastern edge.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	There is a low level of concern relating to this area.
Protect Health and Safety	4	Families use the reserve and playground which can create a hazards with children coming and going across the road.

		Enabling access to vehicles would pose a health and safety risk to other users of the reserve. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	3	There is no parking available and a concrete berm surrounding the reserve. Driving over the berm and grass may cause unnecessary damage.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Weld Street Reserve and the adjacent road (Weld Street).

8.3 Local Purpose Reserves - Amenity Reserves

Local purpose reserves were created by the Reserves Act "... for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve" (S.23 Reserves Act 1977). Local purpose reserves cater for uses such as esplanade, utility, roads, streets and service lanes. An important local purpose reserve in Kawerau is the Kawerau Cemetery.

A number of amenity reserves and strips have been set aside in Kawerau to improve the visual appearance of the town. The two bigger reserves are at Beattie Road and Owen/Julian Road. A series of small amenity strips beautify the roadside along Fenton Street and Tamarangi Drive.

8.3.1 Local Purpose Reserves – General

Beattie Road Local Purpose Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 44 DPS 34292	0.0774	Recreation Reserve
Pt Allot 499 Matata Parish	59.4888	Utility Reserve



Site description

Beattie Road Reserve is located off the northeast end Beattie Road. This reserve lays between Beattie Road and the Dump Reserve. Dump Reserve is a very large reserve which incorporates the water supply pump house, the refuse transfer station and the recycling collection facility.

Beattie Road Reserve is a small undulating grassed reserve with the overflow stream running through from the middle in an easterly direction.

Access to the Beattie Road Reserve is predominately on foot. There is a gate preventing vehicle access from Beattie Road.

There is no parking area available and no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	Protection of the overflow drain is required to ensure it remains fit for the purpose of drainage. There are no known significant cultural matters on the reserve requiring protection.
Protect Health and Safety	2	This reserve is essentially an overflow drain and as such presents a health and safety risk as the area is not suitable for vehicles or camping in any form. There is no public toilets or facilities at this reserve.
Protect access	4	There is formed access to the reserve, however there is no developed roadway or parking area. Access is only for maintenance purposes. Access needs to be protected to ensure the overflow drain is not compromised.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

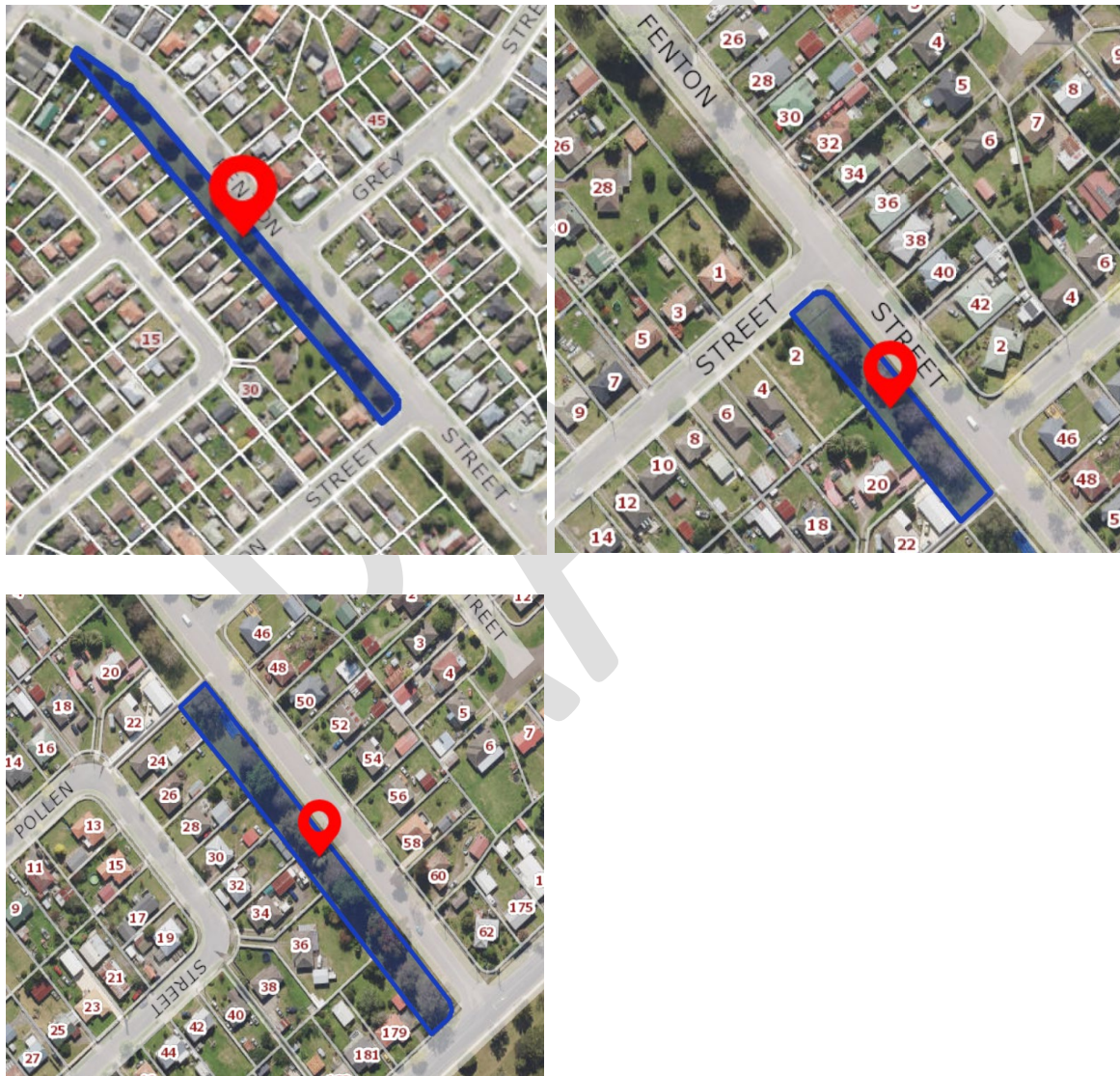
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Beattie Road Local Purpose Reserve.

Fenton Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 128 DPS 4503	0.4156	Local Purpose/Amenity Reserve
Lot 127 DPS 4503	0.1486	Local Purpose/Amenity Reserve
Lot 157 DPS 4502	0.2777	Local Purpose/Amenity Reserve



Site description

Fenton Street Reserve is located along the western edge of Fenton Road.

The reserve is a small grassed reserve with large trees contributing to the pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. There are residential properties surrounding the reserve.

The reserve is fenced off and there is no off street parking available.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The purpose of this reserve is to contribute to the environmental pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties, freedom camping may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	This reserve is fenced off and there is no off street parking available. A concrete kerb runs along the road edge of the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and potentially damaging the kerb and fencing.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

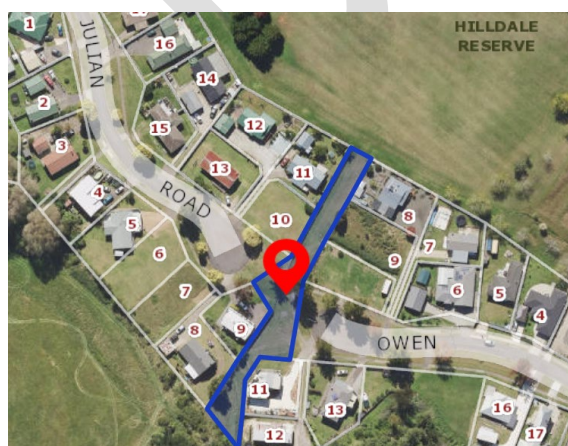
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Fenton Street Reserve.

Owen/ Julian Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 117 DPS 34294	0.1631	Recreation/Local Purpose/Amenity Reserve



Site description

Owen/Julian Road Reserve is located in between Owen Road and Julian Road. On the north-east boundary the reserve meets Hilldale Reserve and towards the south west corner is farmland.

The reserve is a small grassed amenity strip which contributes to the environmental pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. There are residential properties along both sides of the reserve. Three of the bordering sections are currently undeveloped.

The reserve is fenced and has no off street parking available.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The purpose of this reserve is to contribute to the environmental pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties, freedom camping may have a negative effect on privacy and amenity.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	This reserve is fenced off and there is no off street parking available. A concrete kerb runs along the road edge of the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and potentially damaging the kerb and fencing.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Owen/Julian Road Reserve.

Reserve near Manukorihi Drive

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 8 DPS 40871	1.4727	Local Purpose Reserve (Esplanade)



Site description

This reserve is located off Manukorihi Drive and runs along the eastern edge of the Tarawera River. On the opposite side the reserve meets the rear of the industrial area.

The reserve is a combination of a small grassed area and trees and scrubs which form a natural barrier along the river banks.

There is not vehicle access or off street parking.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The Tarawera River and esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	There is no vehicle access to this reserve and no formed access ways.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

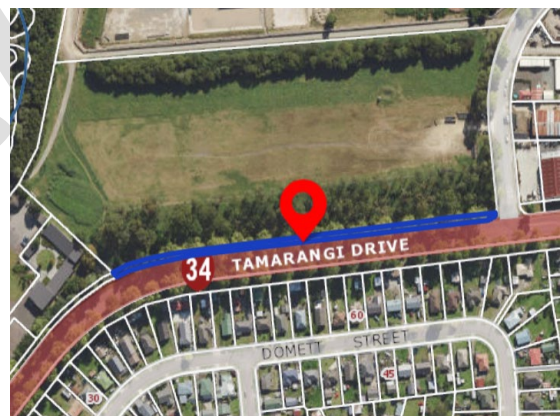
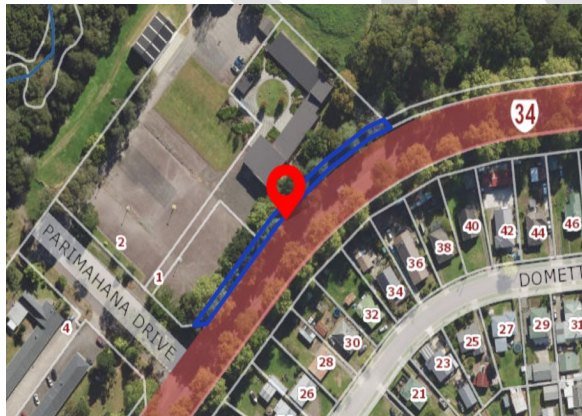
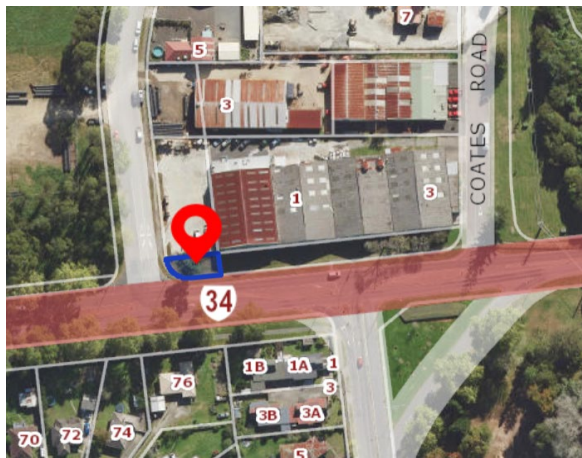
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

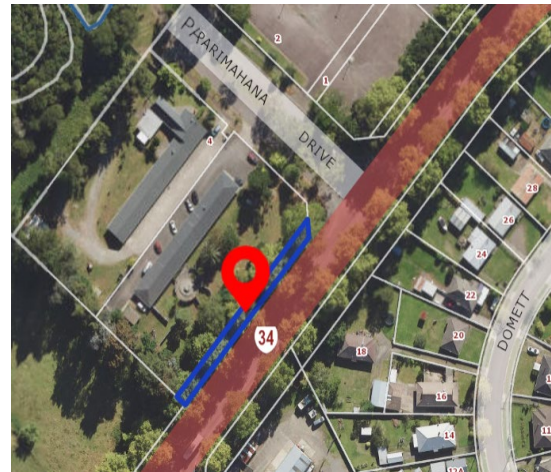
The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Reserve near Manukorihi Drive.

Tamarangi Drive (North Side of Road)

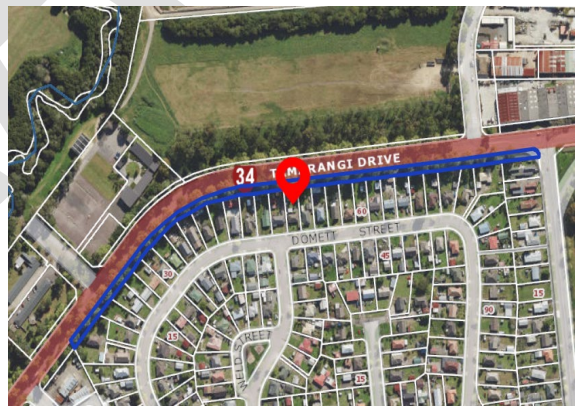
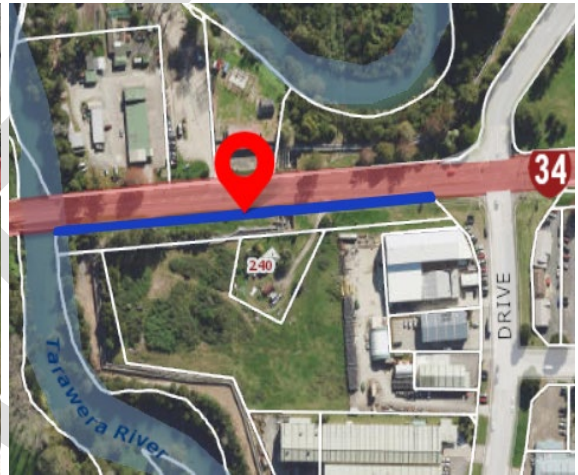
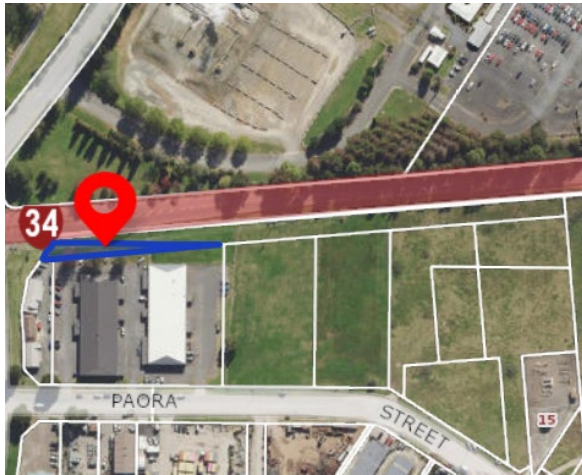
Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 1 DPS 7688	0.0876	Local Purpose - Plantation Reserve
Allot 1211 Matata Psh	0.0173	Local Purpose - Plantation Reserve
Allot 1212 Matata Psh	0.1520	Local Purpose - Plantation Reserve
Allot 1522 Matata Psh	0.0606	Local Purpose - Plantation Reserve
Allot 823 Matata Psh	0.0378	Plantation Reserve
Allot 354 Matata Psh	0.0366	Plantation Reserve
Allot 353 Matata Psh	0.0823	Plantation Reserve

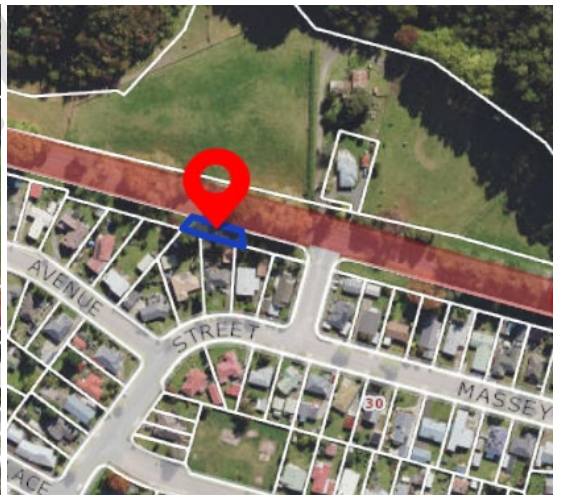
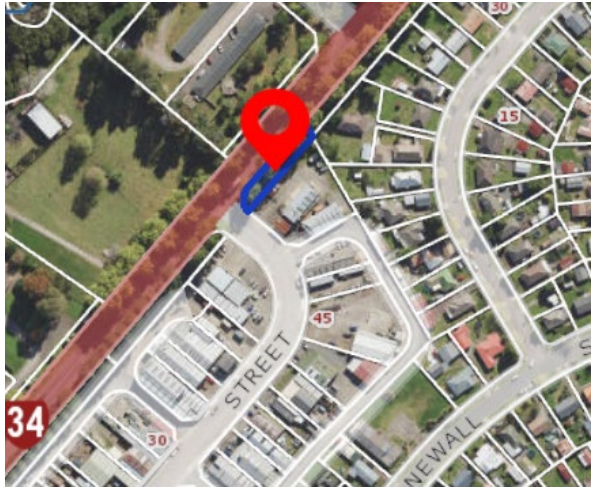




Tamarangi Drive (South Side of Road)

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 1 DP 377787	0.0804	Freehold
Lot 1 DP 387886	0.3806	
Lot 4 DP 387886	0.0580	Local Purpose Reserve (Service and Amenity)
Lot 6 DPS 40869	0.0467	Local Purpose Reserve (Service and Amenity)
Lot 4 DPS 40871	0.3405	Local Purpose Reserve (Service and Amenity)
Lot 179 DPS 4603	0.5371	Plantation Reserve
Lot 6 DPS 11678	0.0491	Plantation Reserve
Lot 1 DPS 11678	0.0844	Local Purpose Reserve
Lot 3 DPS 5727	0.2518	Local Purpose Reserve
Lot 84 DPS 9663	0.2117	Plantation Reserve
Lot 59 DPS 7302	0.0318	Plantation Reserve
Lot 35 DPS 5013	0.0367	Local Purpose Reserve
Lot 12 DPS 5013	0.1867	Local Purpose Reserve







Site description

Tamarangi Driver Reserve (North side and South side) are located along the edges of Tamarangi Drive providing a scenic boundary to the state highway.

The reserves are grassed reserves with large trees lining the edge of the roadside.

There is a footpath that runs along the southern side, providing a walking track which is used for walkers and for exercising dogs.

There is not constructed entrances to the reserves and the reserve are bordered with a concrete kerb.

There is not vehicle access or off street parking.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The purpose of this reserve is to contribute to the environmental pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. The reserve has residential and commercial properties along the edges, freedom camping may have a negative effect on amenity and privacy to the residential properties.
Protect Health and Safety	2	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	This reserve has no off street parking available. A concrete kerb runs along the road edge of the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and potentially damaging the kerb and fencing.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Tamarangi Reserve and the adjacent road (Tamarangi Drive).

8.3.2 Local Purpose Reserves - Esplanade Reserves

Esplanade reserves are associated with coastal, lakesides and riverside reserves. Kawerau District Council has a number of reserves which include sections along Tarawera River and Ruruanga Stream.

Kawerau District Council have two lots specifically identified as Esplanade Reserves, these are:

Stoneham Walk – Pt Lot 85 DPS 9663 and Lot 86 DPS 9663

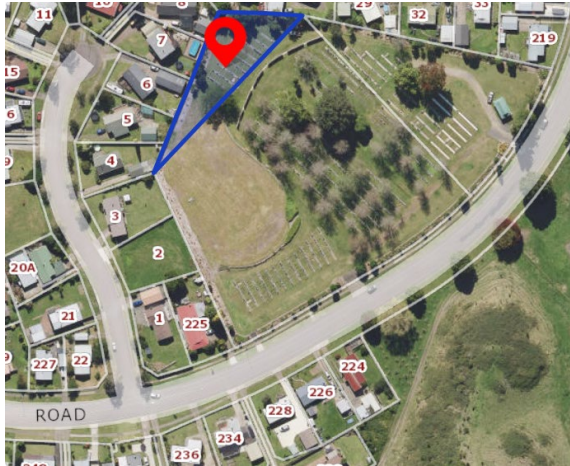
This reserve has been assessed under Recreation Reserves with all other legal titles combined to make up Stoneham Walk.

8.3.3 Local Purpose Reserves – Cemetery

Cemetery

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Pt Allot 329 Matata Psh	1.3000	Local Purpose Reserve
Lot 84 DPS 30068	0.4428	Local Purpose Reserve
Allot 849 Matata Psh	0.1606	Local Purpose Reserve





Site description

The Kawerau District Cemetery has one cemetery which is open for burials. The Cemetery is located off Valley Road.

Cemeteries are sensitive places which support our sense of community and reflect the history of our local people and cultures which have founded and influenced the district. They provide a place where family and friends can come to care for and mourn the loss of their loved ones, consistent with their culture and beliefs.

The cemetery has three established vehicle access ways. Each access way has a gate with is locked unless open for funeral requirements. Although the reserve is not fences, there are established gardens between each of the gates providing a scenic boundary fronting the cemetery.

Public facilities are available with toilets being open to the public.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The cemetery is a sensitive area with high value to the community, being both culturally and historically significant. It is important that the area be protected.
Protect Health and Safety	4	Cemeteries are used frequently by pedestrians including elderly people and children. Freedom camping does pose a health and safety risk to cemetery visitors, through a reduction of visibility and limited space. There is also health and safety concerns due to the likelihood of open ground (plots), use of digging equipment and burial services taking place.
Protect access	3	The cemetery has limited accessibility for vehicles to protect the grounds. Pedestrian access to the cemetery is available of Valley Road. Freedom camping vehicles, even parked on the road side, would impede on the access to others and the visibility of those visiting their loved ones.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the River Road Reserve.

8.3.4 Local Purpose Reserves – Utility Reserves

Local purpose utility reserves are used for the purpose of providing utilities or drainage with Kawerau. Kawerau District Council have two utility reserves being the Dump Reserve (includes Pat Baker Reserve) and the Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve.

Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 1 DPS 43063	7.3796	Utility Reserve



Site description

The Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve is located off Beattie Road to the south west. The reserve is land locked by private land.

The reserve is a large lot that is covered in established native trees.

There is no public access to this reserve.

Public facilities are not available.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	This reserve is cover in native trees and should be protected.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	There is no road access to this reserve.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the River Road Reserve.

8.4 Council Owned Land

Circus Paddock

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Land Category
Part Lot 1 DPS 5500	1.1400	Freehold Commercial



Site description

Circus paddock is located on the corner of Plunket and Onslow Street. The area known as Circus paddock is council owned freehold land.

The land area includes two paved carparks. Kawerau Cosmopolitan Club uses one carpark and the other paved car parking area is associated with the recreational space including the basketball court, skate park and recreational space.

Near the circus paddock, is approximately 1000m² of geothermally active land. Some steam comes through vents in the ground and a sulphur smell is evident. While the area is not considered dangerous and is not hot, there is some unpredictability area geothermal activity.

Geothermal gases can be dangerous at high concentrations and levels are monitored at the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre which borders the Circus paddock.

Circus paddock is used for local events, including currently being home to the local markets.

There are no public facilities at Circus paddock.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	Circus paddock is used for local events. The availability and use of the area may be reduced where large numbers of freedom campers are parking in this area.
Protect Health and Safety	3	This area may be affected by geothermal gases, however levels are monitored at the adjacent property and dangerous level are not expected at Circus paddock. Tenting is not advisable on Circus paddock. Vehicle access near the skate parks and adjoining basketball court raises health and safety concerns due to the unpredictability of children and their social activities.
Protect access	4	Vehicle access and off-street parking is available, however the parking area is used by the Cosmopolitan Club and freedom campers may affect the availability of parking, negatively impacting on their commercial business. To access the grassed area, vehicle must drive over the kerb or remove a wooden post protecting the reserve from vehicle. This may cause damage to the area.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Circus Paddock does not come under the reserves management plan.

Given the nature of the location, being zoned for commercial use and being available for hire for community events, including the local market, Council need to consider the current use and the viability of using for Freedom Camping. It also needs to consider any impact of the Cosmopolitan Club who currently use the area for parking.

The current freedom camping bylaw does not provide for freedom camping on this field. In saying this, Circus paddock has previously been approved by Council for the use of organised groups, using self-contained vehicle only, during the Christmas in the Park event. In considering this, it must be taken into account the commercial bookings, weather and ground conditions and the level of geothermal gases at the time. Given the shortage of accommodation in Kawerau, and the possibility of Firmin Lodge/Field be rented, it is reasonable to have a couple of areas that may be made available where the need arises.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended, that Council restrict freedom camping at Circus Paddock. The recommended restrictions in the proposed bylaw are as follows:

- Council may consider prior consent for organised groups where other freedom camping areas are unlikely to be able to support the number of expected freedom campers.
- Freedom camping is only available to self-contained vehicles.
- Commercial activity has priority over any request for prior consent.