

13 October 2022

Committee Secretariat  
Economic Development, Science and Innovation  
Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Tēnā koutou,

### **SUBMISSION ON SELF-CONTAINED MOTOR VEHICLES LEGISLATION BILL**

1. Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Self-Contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Bill (the Bill). DCC believes the Bill provides an opportunity to strengthen aspects of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the Act).
2. DCC welcomes responsible campers to Dunedin and supports initiatives that encourage responsible camping in Aotearoa.
3. DCC is concerned that the Bill proposes an amendment that will impact a large number of vehicle owners; those who are unable to meet the requirement for a permanently fixed toilet. If enacted, DCC believes this will increase demand for Council unrestricted freedom camping sites and present additional challenges in enforcement. DCC encourages the Government to continue providing funding for responsible camping initiatives and provide additional funding for freedom camping infrastructure through the Tourism Infrastructure Fund and Freedom Camping Transition Fund.
4. DCC supports amendments that will improve the consistency of the Act. DCC believes the Act should be outcomes-focused, provide for enforcement over the land of relevant Government agencies and be applicable to all freedom campers.
5. DCC encourages the Government to explore options for improving infringement fee collection from international visitors. DCC has concerns that the Act will be limited in its effectiveness if this is not addressed.
6. DCC encourages the Government to invest in freedom camping education, particularly targeted toward motor vehicle owners and international visitors.
7. DCC submitted comments on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's (MBIE) Freedom Camping Regulations Discussion Document.

## **SECTION 10A - BYLAWS DECLARING NZTA LAND TO BE LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA**

8. DCC supports the proposed amendment to permit territorial authorities to declare any area of New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) land in its district to be a local authority area for the purposes of the Act. DCC also supports the proposal to prohibit freedom camping on Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) land except in designated areas. Without these provisions, DCC is concerned that freedom camping would proliferate in these areas, particularly among vehicle owners who are unwilling or unable to meet proposed self-containment requirements.
9. DCC believes these proposed amendments will improve the consistency of the legislation and simplify freedom camping rules for vehicle owners, particularly international visitors.

## **SECTION 11B – REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO BYLAWS MADE UNDER SECTIONS 10A TO 11A**

10. DCC requests provision within the Act to allow local authorities to amend existing bylaws to reflect proposed amendments without the requirement for public consultation.
11. DCC has concerns that territorial authorities will need to follow the Special Consultative Procedure to align existing bylaws with proposed provisions within the Act. DCC believes this may hinder a smooth transition to new legislation and become costly and overly laborious for territorial authorities.

## **SECTION 20 – INFRINGEMENT OFFENCES RELATING TO LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS**

12. DCC seeks clarification on the definition of ‘makes preparations to freedom camp’ as a possible infringement offence. DCC believes the Act should provide a clear definition of this to ensure the offence can be enforced effectively and consistently.
13. DCC supports the proposal to include, as an offence, freedom camping in a self-contained motor vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for. DCC believes there may be challenges in enforcing this rule which could be minimised under Section 35, by empowering an enforcement officer to lawfully request the number of people freedom camping in a vehicle.

## **SECTION 43 – REGULATIONS**

14. DCC is supportive of the regulation making power proposed by section 37 of the Bill. DCC submitted broadly supportive comments on MBIE’s Freedom Camping Regulations discussion document.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

15. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on these proposals.
16. DCC would like to speak to our submission if requested by Select Committee.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandy Graham', followed by a period.

Sandy Graham  
**Chief Executive**