

# Grey District Council **Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2026**

**This bylaw was adopted by the Grey District Council  
on 8 December 2014, amended on 26 November 2020 and on 28  
September 2026, following consideration of submissions received  
as part of the Special Consultative procedure**

# GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW 2026.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Grey District Council makes this Bylaw pursuant to the powers contained in Sections 11 to 14 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023.

The amendments incorporated in this Bylaw are intended to comply with the requirements of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 and provide Council with the ability to implement the Infringement provisions of that Act.

Grey District Council strongly encourages visitors and travellers using mobile and other temporary accommodation e.g. campervans, caravans, tents etc, to use licensed camping grounds (See Schedule 3).

It is recognised that many such campers bring economic and social benefits to the areas they visit and their continued custom is to be encouraged.

This bylaw aims to balance the needs and expectations of the local community with those of responsible freedom campers.

## 1.0 TITLE AND DATE OF COMING INTO FORCE

This bylaw shall be known as the 'Grey District Council Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2026.

This bylaw shall come into force as soon as finally confirmed by Council.

## 2.0 PURPOSE OF BYLAW

The purpose of this bylaw is to:

- Protect, promote and maintain public health and safety and protection of the environment by regulating responsible freedom camping on Council property within the District; and
- To allow responsible freedom camping on Council land (Local Authority Area) except in those areas defined as 'prohibited' or 'restricted', subject to conditions outlined in this bylaw.

## 3.0 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

In this Bylaw:

### **Act Camping Ground**

means the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

means:

- a camping ground that is the subject of a current certificate of registration under the Camping-Grounds Regulations 1985; and
- any site at which a fee is payable for camping at the site

### **Council**

means the Grey District Council.

### **Duly Authorised Officer**

means any person formally approved to administer the requirements of the Bylaw on Council's behalf.

### **Enforcement Officer**

means a person appointed by the Grey District Council as an enforcement officer under the Act.

**Freedom Camp**

means to camp on Council controlled land (other than at a camping ground) within 200 m of a motor vehicle accessible area or the mean low-water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200 m of a formed road or a Great Walks Track, using 1 or more of the following:

- a tent or other temporary structure,
- a caravan,
- any motorised vehicle.

**Freedom Camping**

has a corresponding meaning, but does not include:

- temporary and short-term parking of a motor vehicle;
- recreational activities commonly known as day-trip excursions;
- resting or sleeping at the roadside in a caravan or motor vehicle to avoid driver fatigue.

A person is not freedom camping if the person —

- a) is a person other than a person who is in New Zealand on the basis of a visitor visa (within the meaning of the immigration instructions); and
- b) is unable to live in appropriate residential accommodation; and
- c) as a consequence of that inability, is living in either or both of the following:
  - i. a tent or other temporary structure;
  - ii. a motor vehicle.

**Local Authority Area**

has the same meaning as in Section 6 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011

**Mobile accommodation**

means temporary accommodation that is movable or transportable.

**Night  
Responsible Freedom  
Camping**

means the period between 7pm to 8am or any part thereof.  
means to camp on Council controlled land in a vehicle and maintaining the self-Contained conditions at all times.

**Restricted Area**

means a parking area or marked parking space identified within the areas in Schedule 2 of this Bylaw and indicated by signs erected in the area where camping is permitted subject to any restrictions and conditions.

**Self-Contained**

*(has the same definition as set out in section 4 of the Act)*

means, in relation to a motor vehicle, that the vehicle has a valid certificate of self-containment issued in accordance with section 87U(3)(d) of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 (but see subpart 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1AA for the meaning of self-contained during the transitional period).

For avoidance of doubt, the toilet facility must be permanently fixed to the vehicle and able to be used with sufficient head and elbow room at all times, even with the bed made up.

**Waste**

means any kind of waste, including human waste.

**5.0 LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS WHERE RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM CAMPING IS PERMITTED**

Responsible Freedom camping is permitted in any Local Authority Areas unless it is prohibited in an area—

1. in accordance with this bylaw; or
2. under any other enactment.

These General Restrictions apply in all Local Authority Area:

1. All responsible Freedom Camping is restricted to Certified Self-contained Vehicles.
2. Except where this Bylaw provides for a lesser period, no person may freedom camp for more than three (3) nights in any four-week consecutive period in any one area or within 500 metres of that area. Council can, at its discretion, allow for longer duration stays.
3. On-board storage tanks must be emptied on a regular basis in the prescribed, hygienic fashion at a Council approved dump point. See Schedule 3 of this bylaw for dump stations and public toilet locations.
4. Household rubbish must be disposed of in a Council approved disposal facility, as per the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2026.
5. Vehicles must park within defined spaces or within identified parking areas, whichever is present. One vehicle per space.
6. No use of public facilities to; wash dishes; wash clothes; dry clothes; bathe; except for facilities designated for that purpose. Advisory Note: Public facilities include public toilets, water taps (except for collecting water), flora and structures e.g. fences, signs and bollards.
7. All personal effects must be kept within the vehicles.
8. A current "self-containment warrant" must be placed on the inside left front window or visible and issued in accordance with applicable legislation.
9. The number of persons associated with the vehicle must not exceed that specified in the Self-Containment Certificate and "warrant".
10. All camping sites must be left in a clean and tidy condition.
11. Camping must not block or hinder any public or private access.
12. Notwithstanding the requirements of any other clause of this part of the bylaw, a person shall not, in any public place, light any fire except at fireplaces specially provided, or in an appliance designed for outdoor cooking; subject to any restriction imposed by Council on the lighting of fires.
13. The Council may close or restrict freedom camping in any local authority area or part of any area where such restriction is considered necessary by Council to:
  - Prevent damage to the area or facilities in the area; or
  - Allow maintenance to the area or facilities in the area; or
  - During events; or
  - Health and/or safety of persons; or
  - Provide for better public access.

Reasonable notice of any temporary closure or restriction must be given including the reason for the closure or restriction.

## **6.0 THE PROHIBITED AREAS**

No person may Freedom Camp in any prohibited area identified in Schedule 1 of this Bylaw.

No person may Freedom Camp in any place defined as a Public Place in the Grey District Council Introductory Bylaw, which utilises the Public Place definition in section 147(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002.

## **7.0 EXCEPTIONS**

Exceptions to Clauses 5.0, 6.0 and above may be made to allow special events to be held on local authority land, subject to approval by Council.

## **8.0 OFFENCES**

*[Excerpt from the Freedom Camping Act 2011]*

### **20 Infringement offences relating to local authority areas**

- (1) *A person commits an infringement offence if the person—*
- (a) freedom camps in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction specified in a bylaw made under [section 11](#) or [11A](#) that applies to the area; or*
  - (b) freedom camps in a local authority area, other than a local authority area defined in a bylaw made under [section 11A](#) as permitting motor vehicles that are not self-contained, using a motor vehicle that is not self-contained; or*
  - (c) fails to display a warrant card in a motor vehicle that the person is using to freedom camp in a local authority area, other than a local authority area defined in a bylaw made under [section 11A](#); or*
  - (d) freedom camps in a local authority area in a self-contained motor vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for; or*
  - (e) while freedom camping in a local authority area,—*
    - (i) interferes with or damages the area, its flora or fauna, or any structure in the area; or*
    - (ii) deposits waste in or on the area (other than into an appropriate waste receptacle); or*
  - (f) makes preparations to freedom camp in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction specified in a bylaw made under [section 11](#) or [11A](#) that applies to the area; or*
  - (g) makes preparations to freedom camp in a local authority area, other than a local authority area defined in a bylaw made under [section 11A](#) as permitting motor vehicles that are not self-contained, using a motor vehicle that is not self-contained; or*
  - (h) makes preparations to freedom camp in a local authority area in a self-contained motor vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for; or*
  - (i) fails or refuses to leave a local authority area when required to do so by an enforcement officer acting under [section 36](#).*
- (2) *In this section and in [sections 20A](#) and [20B](#), to **make preparations** means to do either or both of the following:*
- (a) erect a tent to use it for freedom camping;*
  - (b) park a motor vehicle to use it for freedom camping.*

## **9.0 PENALTIES**

A person who fails to comply with this Bylaw commits a breach of this Bylaw and is liable to a penalty under the Local Government Act 2002, the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 and Freedom Camping (Penalties for Infringement Offences) Regulations 2023.

*[Excerpt from the Freedom Camping Act 2011]*

### **20E Penalties for infringement offences**

*A person who commits an infringement offence is liable to—*

- (a) an infringement fee not exceeding \$1,000 that is prescribed by regulations made under [section 43](#); or*
- (b) if no regulations have been made under [section 43](#) prescribing infringement fees, an infringement fee of \$400; or*
- (c) a fine imposed by a court not exceeding \$3,000 or any lesser or equal amount prescribed by the regulations.*

## **10.0 UPDATES AND REVIEWS**

Sections 8.0 and 9.0 are extracts from the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and as such may be updated in this document without prior notice should those sections in the Act be amended.

Any Restricted Areas and Prohibited Areas shall be reviewed annually to consider any new information regarding the effects of freedom camping.

## **11.0 STATUS OF THE BYLAW**

Where any provision in a Council Bylaw, Policy or practice document conflicts with any provision contained herein or otherwise creates any confusion, the provisions of the Bylaw will take precedence.

## **12.0 BYLAW NOT TO LIMIT OR AFFECT OTHER ENACTMENTS**

This Bylaw does not limit or affect the requirements in or under any other enactment.

## **13.0 EXCEPTIONS AND SAVING PROVISIONS**

A person is not in breach of this Bylaw if that person proves that the act or omission was in compliance with the directions of an authorised Council officer.

## **14.0 REPLACEMENT AND REVOCATION**

This Bylaw replaces the previous Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2020.

# Schedule 1 –PROHIBITED AREAS ON COUNCIL CONTROLLED LAND FOR FREEDOM CAMPING

All forms of Freedom Camping are prohibited in these Local Authority Areas without prior written consent of The Council

All areas as mapped in Map 1-10

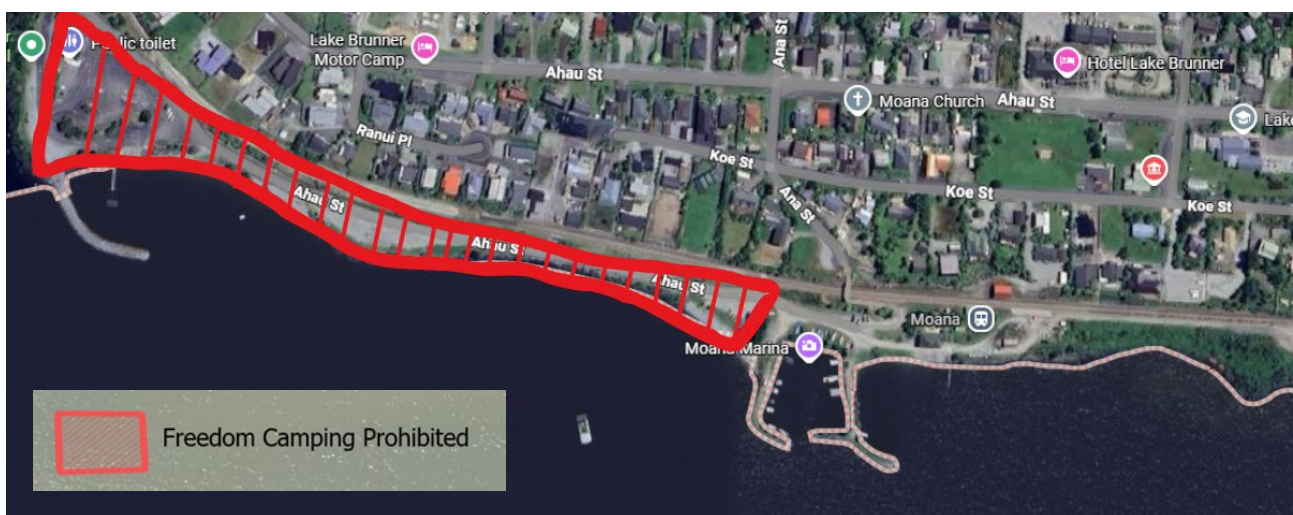
**Map 1 - Jacks Road** all beach accesses off Jacks Road, as identified in the maps.



**Map 2 - The Iveagh Bay** area in its entirety with the exception of the area set aside for Responsible Freedom Camping in the aerial map.



**Map 3 – Moana - Lake Brunner Foreshore** and all lake accesses in the area identified in the map.



**Map 4 - Cobden Breakwater and Sanctuary area in its entirety, with the exception of the areas made available for Responsible Freedom Camping at the Cobden Breakwater carpark marked in green in Map 4b**



**Map 4b**



**Map 5 - Cobden Foreshore through to Point Elizabeth Track** Parking Area including all beach accesses.



**Map 6 - All Rapahoe**, including parking areas at the Point Elizabeth Track, parking and beach accesses and including the recreational reserve area.



**Map 7 - McEwen Park** area on Hilton Street, Clifford Street and Wilson Street, Blackball.



**Map 8 - McMillan Road area and Colville Close areas as marked, south of the Punakaiki River including all river accesses.**



**Map 9 - Cobden Bridge area as marked near the boat ramp**



**Map 10 - Blaketown Tip head Toilet and Carpark area as marked.**



## **Schedule 2 - REGISTERED MOTORHOME PARKS**

### **Challenge Service Station Motor Camp**

Coast Autos

Tainui Street, Greymouth

### **Greymouth Seaside Top 10 Holiday Park**

2 Chesterfield Street, Greymouth

### **Lake Brunner Motor Camp**

86 Ahau Street, Moana

### **Rapahoe Beach Motor Camp**

10 Hawken Street, Rapahoe

### **Kiwi Holiday Park & Motel**

318 Main South Road, Greymouth

## Schedule 3 – GREY DISTRICT DUMP POINT LOCATIONS

### **Blackball Public Dump Station**

Located at Blackball Recreation Reserve in South Town Belt

### **Cobden Public Dump Station**

Reserve at north end of Cobden Bridge, Cobden, Greymouth

### **Greymouth Dump Station**

Coast Autos

Tainui Street, Greymouth

### **Greymouth Seaside Top 10 Holiday Park**

2 Chesterfield Street, Greymouth

### **Lake Brunner Motor Camp**

86 Ahau Street, Moana

### **Nelson Creek Public Dump Station**

Nelson Creek Domain, Nelson Creek

### **Rapahoe Beach Motor Camp**

10 Hawken Street, Rapahoe

### **Runanga Public Dump Station**

Pitt Street, Runanga

### **Kiwi Holiday Park & Motel**

318 Main South Road, Greymouth

*NOTE: Charges may apply at some of these sites.*