

Nelson City Council

Site Assessment Freedom Camping

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Nelson City Council – Site Assessment Freedom Camping

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Section 1. Introduction

The purpose of the Significant Site Assessment is to identify Council owned or vested land throughout the City, which has the potential to be used for Freedom Camping and then assess each site against specific criteria, as provided for under s.11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the Act), to determine if that site is a 'significant site' by using a scoring system. If a site is classified as a 'significant site' the document provides an assessment on the type of restrictions which would apply to those particular sites, such as prohibited or restricted - thereby being able to clearly determine what a significant site is in regards to Freedom Camping within Nelson City. Where the document is silent on a reserve it is because there is no carparking on that reserve, and it is therefore prohibited.

Aim

The aim of the Significant Site Assessment is:

- to provide a clear determination of what a significant site is; and
- to provide a consistent and fair approach to the classification of Council owned land in relation to restrictions or prohibitions on Freedom Camping within Nelson City.

Requirements of the Act

The Act seeks to regulate freedom camping on land controlled or managed by local authorities and the Department of Conservation. The Act is very permissive generally in its approach to freedom camping and provides councils with the opportunity to place restrictions or prohibitions through the development of bylaws.

Bylaws must be made in accordance with the Act or any other enactment and must not prohibit freedom camping absolutely within the district. Through the development of a bylaw councils must be satisfied that a bylaw is necessary for one or more of the following purposes:

- To protect the area;
- To protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area; and
- To protect access to the area.

A bylaw can determine if an area within the district is restricted and state the restrictions which apply; and a bylaw can also determine if freedom camping in an area is prohibited. The areas defined under a bylaw must be detailed in a map or a description of its locality.

Council's role and responsibility

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the purpose of Local Government is to “*meet the current and future needs of communities for ... [the] performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.*”

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. This is to ensure that freedom camping can still occur with the City, but enables Council to place reasonable restrictions on freedom camping to protect the area, the health and safety of people who may visit the area, and protect access to the area.

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 the need to promote and encourage the opportunity of freedom camping in the district.

Assessment Guidelines

'Public' land vs. Private land

The assessment looks at sites on Council owned or managed property. Under section 3 and 4 of the Act, the regulation of freedom camping on private land is specifically excluded. Council Officers have reviewed Reserve Management Plans to assess any issues, which ensure that there is no conflict with the Plans and Freedom Camping.

Leased Council Land

Council owns land throughout the City, which is not allocated at any given time to specific purposes (such as parks and reserves). To ensure that the land is maintained, Council may lease the land for purposes such as camping grounds through a formal contract. Therefore leased land is not included within the assessment.

Accessible Land

The assessment is only undertaken on land which is accessible and which has a recognised carpark area. Land outside of this criteria is covered by the general provisions of the Bylaw dealing with all other local authority land. This means that a vehicle (such as a campervan) could access the site either by road verge or formed road. Sites which are blocked from vehicle access are excluded from the assessment and are not deemed suitable for freedom camping.

Treaty Settlement Land

Council may in the future return land to local Iwi due to any Treaty Land Settlements; in which case Freedom Camping will be by negotiation with Iwi.

Assessment Criteria

Under the Act, the Council must be satisfied that the bylaw is necessary for the following purposes:

- To protect the area;
- To protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area; and
- To protect access to the area.

These three criteria are considered in this document to be the *assessment criteria*. The following paragraphs show how the Council has interpreted the assessment criteria specifically, and provides clarity on how the assessment of the Act was undertaken using a fair and consistent approach.

1. Protection of the Area

The types of sites identified for analysis have a wide range of environments, such as residential areas, recreation grounds and parks in the urban area to bush, coastal and farmland sites in rural areas. The protection of the natural environment, such as the flora and fauna, has been assessed at each site.

Nelson City also has many culturally or historically significant sites, some of which are listed under the Nelson Resource Management Plan. The significance of these sites has been analysed in regards to Freedom Camping, to ensure that the areas are protected for future generations to enjoy.

Alongside flora, fauna and history is another aspect of culture. The culture of the City has been taken into account for where people recreate and how important the sites are to forms of recreation.

Sports Grounds (the turf) have been designed for a specific community use. To ensure that these areas are maintained i.e. not damaged by freedom camping vehicles and do not require expensive remediation, sports fields generally will have a higher score. To maintain the service level expected of sports grounds that benefit the entire community, freedom camping is prohibited from turf surfaces.

2. Health and safety of those visiting the site

The Act requires that the health and safety of those visiting the site are considered. Some sites have a high level of vehicular traffic (car parks and lookout points), or have a high level of use for other activities (like sports grounds). These aspects of health and safety have been considered during the assessment. As too have issues of persistent vandalism and vagrancy.

3. Access to the Area

Within this document the current access to each site is assessed. This includes taking into account the current vehicular access, to ensure that no unreasonable damage is caused by the access of vehicles to significant flora and fauna, or the impact that people accessing the site will have on other users to the area.

Assessment Scoring Method

The scoring method is based on the three assessment criteria set out in the Act. Each criteria (protection of area, health and safety and access) has been allocated scores from 1 (being the lowest) to 5 (being the highest). The total score of each of the criteria provide 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 that the site is determined 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 that the site is determined to be a “significant site” and freedom camping may be prohibited. 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 (which is further defined in the *assessment of freedom camping category types*).

Assessment Scoring Method:

Protection of the area – Cultural significance, Historical significance, Flora or Fauna	
1	No significant site concerns
2	Low concerns regarding significant sites
3	Some concerns regarding significant sites
4	Significant sites but not fully protected
5	Fully protected area, historical, cultural or native significance

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 or children)
4	Significant health and safety concerns
5	Risk to health and safety is too great to allow access to the site

Protect 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

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types

Once a site has been assessed and given a significance score, it will determine if freedom camping is permitted or prohibited (see previous page). The *assessment of freedom camping category types* highlights for the reader the types of freedom camping permitted at the site. This is where particular restrictions can be applied to freedom camping.

Definitions

Significant site is an area that has been assessed within this document and has a significance score of 9 or greater.

Self-contained means a vehicle designed and built for the purpose of camping which is configured to meet the ablutionary and sanitary needs of occupants of that vehicle for a minimum of three days, without requiring any external services or discharging any waste and complies with New Zealand Standard 5465:2001 or subsequent amendments, as evidenced by the display of a current self-containment warrant issued under *New Zealand Standard Self Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans, NZS 5465:2001*.

Non-self-contained vehicle means a vehicle which does not have any built in on-board ablutionary or sanitary facilities and does not carry a current self-containment warrant issued under *New Zealand Standard Self Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans, NZS 5465:2001* or subsequent amendments.

Tenting means camping in a portable and collapsible temporary structure (which is usually made of fabric), is supported by poles and affixed to the ground with pegs.

Section 2. Assessment

Cemeteries

Nelson City Council Cemeteries

- Marsden Valley Cemetery
- Haven Cemetery
- Wakapuaka Cemetery
- Hira Cemetery
- Seaview Cemetery
- Quakers Acre Cemetery
- St Andrews Cemetery
- Hallowell Cemetery

All cemeteries in Nelson City are considered to have a high level of historical and cultural significance. There are moderate health and safety concerns due to the likelihood of open ground (plots), use of specialised digging equipment and burial services taking place. Access to cemeteries is granted to the public generally during the day; however gates are locked at night. All sites are fenced to restrict access. Due to the cultural and historical significance of these sites, it is proposed that all types of freedom camping is prohibited.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	3	4	12/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No



Esplanade Reserves

Paremata Flats Foreshore (Maori Pa Road) Esplanade Reserve

This esplanade reserve is located along the foreshore of Delaware Inlet in the vicinity of Bishops Peninsula. The reserve does not have formed carpark or toilet facilities, though there is a space which people have used for picnicking. The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2008 states of camping: “To generally prohibit camping in all esplanade and foreshore reserves, except by permit, on a short term basis at identified sites that have appropriate water and toilet facilities” (3.18), and of carparking: “Prohibit vehicle use in reserves except... in designated roadways or parking areas” (3.28.1).

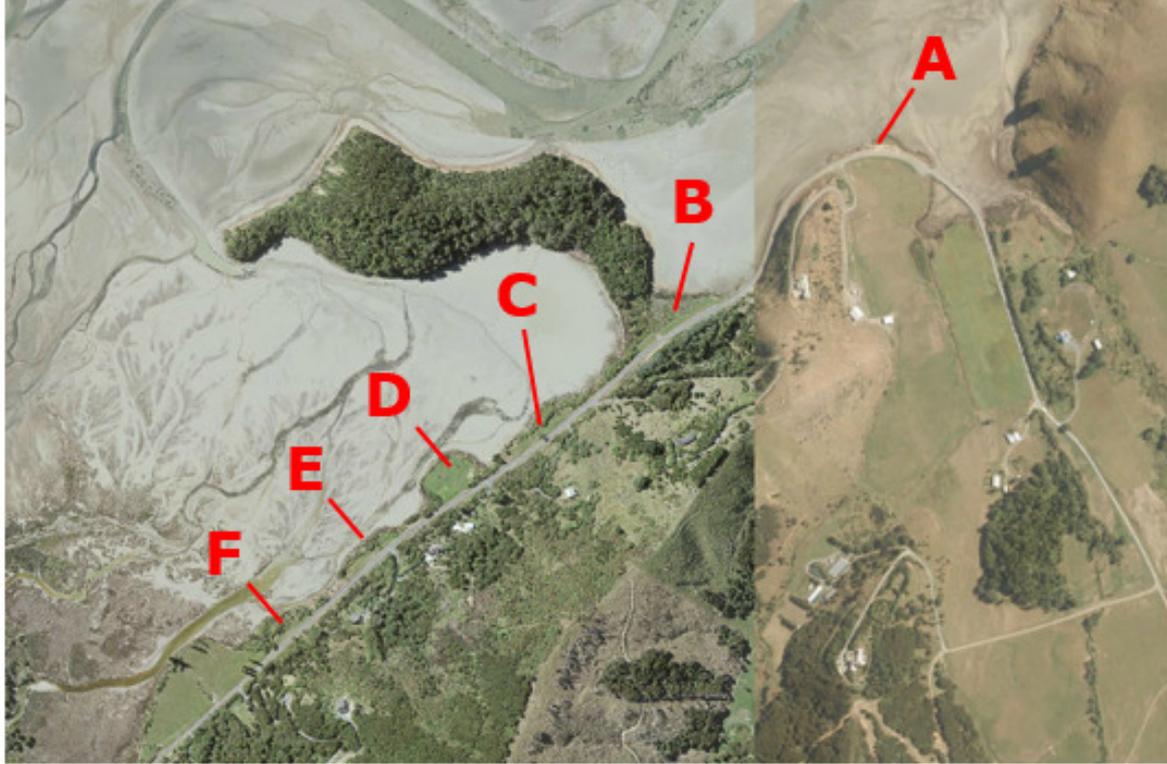
Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	2	2	9/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This is a commonly used reserve including unformed vehicle access without active restriction by council. There are no toilet facilities. The area has iwi significance and not considered appropriate for Freedom Camping.



Map 1 – Maori Pa Rd



Esplanade Reserves

Wakapuaka River (Maori Pa Road / Wakapuaka Road) Esplanade Reserve

This part of the esplanade reserve is located at the fork of the Cable Bay and Maori Pa Roads. The reserve does not have formed carpark or toilet facilities. It is used for swimming and picnicking, has large native trees such as Kahikatea and Totara, and part of the reserve is in grazing lease. The reserve has no toilet facilities. Photos are attached in the following page of currently used carparking sites. The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2008 states of camping: “To generally prohibit camping in all esplanade and foreshore reserves, except by permit, on a short term basis at identified sites that have appropriate water and toilet facilities” (3.18), and of carparking: “Prohibit vehicle use in reserves except... in designated roadways or parking areas” (3.28.1).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	4	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

While the significance score does not reach the threshold of 9, the reserve does not have toilet facilities nor a formed carpark. Carparking on the site is not planned for nor intended.



Esplanade Reserves

Marina (Port Nelson area)

This is a mixed area of some esplanade reserve, road reserve and sea bed. It also has mixed ownership including LINZ. There are two distinct parts to the reserve which are referred to as:

1. Dixon Basin (Akersten Street): The main marina area providing onshore facilities which support the floating pontoons. It is an unformed piece of land where vehicles can park, including boat trailers. It is also used for boat storage, Waka Ama, BBQs, sea cadets, sea scout storage and launching. It has rubbish bins, and toilets and showers for use by the boating community which are open 24/7. A further under-utilised area known as the “log storage site” adjacent to the Marina, has been used as a designated site for Freedom Camping by council over the 2016/17 summer. The area is tagged for future development including marine servicing, and until the Marina Strategy is implemented, it is intended to fence the perimeter and allocate the space for boat trailer parking to support the launching ramp for motorised boats. There are soil contamination matters to consider also.
2. Old Boat Harbour (Vickerman Street): This area has carparking for Marina users and toilets open 24/7. The area has considerable congestion issues.

The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2008 states of camping: “To generally prohibit camping in all esplanade and foreshore reserves, except by permit, on a short term basis at identified sites that have appropriate water and toilet facilities” (3.18), and of carparking: “Prohibit vehicle use in reserves except... in designated roadways or parking areas” (3.28.1).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Dixon Basin Score:	2	3	5	11/15
Old Boat Harbour Score:	2	3	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types			
Area	Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Dixon Basin:	No	No	No
Old Boat Harbour:	No	No	No

It is intended to bollard off the Dixon Basin site for Marina related activities. The Old Boat Harbour area is not suitable for any further camping vehicles as it is already under significant congestion by Marina users. Health and Safety concerns have been raised with freedom campers swimming in the Marina, which is a dangerous activity.

Esplanade Reserves

Maitai River Esplanade Reserve (QEII Drive to Maitai Dam)

This esplanade reserve is located in the Maitai Valley, following the River until the location of the dam. It is a key area in Nelson for picnicking, swimming and passive recreation. Historically it has been a no-camping area for this reason and much of the reserve is bollarded off from vehicle access. The reserve has a Golf Course on it with carpark and toilets, Maitai Campground, high quality plantings, a mountain bike area, and picnic facilities. There is an additional toilet block on the South end of the reserve. The only formal carparking area is at the Golf Course. There are several unformed access points available for picnicking, but it is not intended these are used for formal vehicle parking, nor to normalise these areas for that purpose. The following page attaches photos of currently used carparking areas.

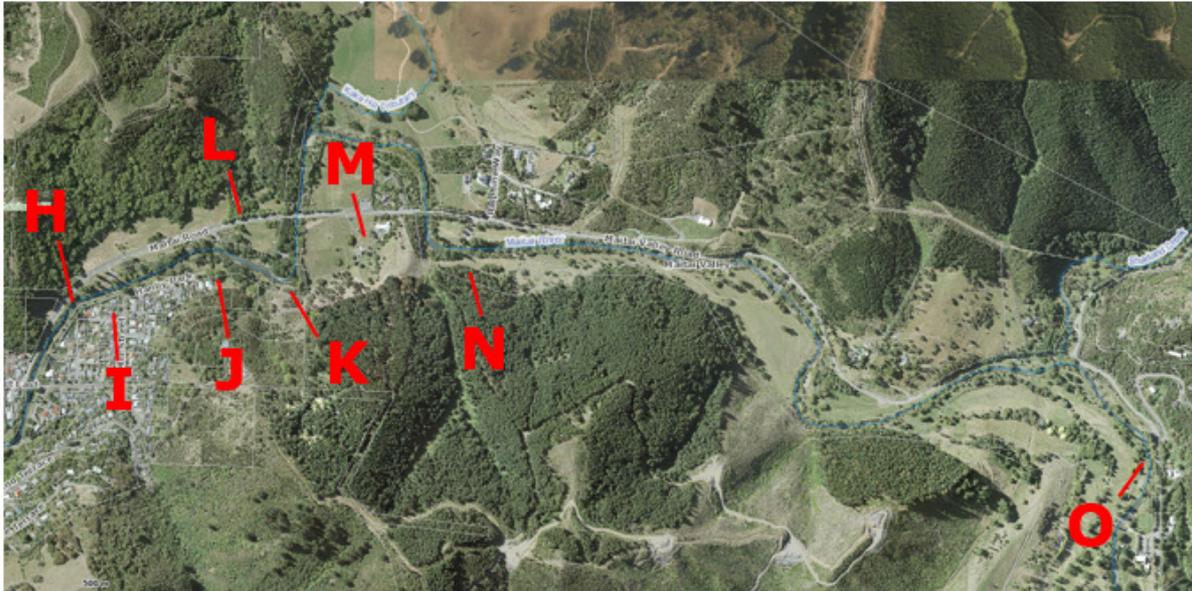
The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2008 states of camping: “To generally prohibit camping in all esplanade and foreshore reserves, except by permit, on a short term basis at identified sites that have appropriate water and toilet facilities” (3.18), and of carparking: “Prohibit vehicle use in reserves except... in designated roadways or parking areas” (3.28.1).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	5	2	12/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The area rates highly for community cultural significance as a main recreating area. Health and Safety ranked highly due to the ongoing vandalism, vehicle related problems and public nuisance at night. Many areas are located at night because of these issues, including the Dam. The Gold Course carpark is not suitable for motorhome parking due to its small size and high usage. The activity of campervan parking is not consistent with the Esplanade and Foreshore Reserves Management Plan 2008.

Map 2 – Maitai Valley Rd



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Esplanade Reserves

Maitai River Esplanade Reserve – Shakespeare Walk

This esplanade reserve also follows the River located in The Woods suburb. It is a passive reserve for strolling and dog walking, and a whitebait spawning ground. The River bank is kept in long grass in part, to protect this spawning ground. There are no toilets or formed carparks on the site. Vehicles do park on the grass reserve while people are walking or exercising their dogs.

The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2008 states of camping: “To generally prohibit camping in all esplanade and foreshore reserves, except by permit, on a short term basis at identified sites that have appropriate water and toilet facilities” (3.18), and of carparking: “Prohibit vehicle use in reserves except... in designated roadways or parking areas” (3.28.1).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	4	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

Although vehicles are parking on the grass verge, this is not a formed and official area to be encouraged further. In addition the Esplanade and Foreshore Reserves Management Plan 2008 does not permit this activity.



Esplanade Reserves

Oyster Island

This esplanade and recreation reserve is located 400m offshore from Monaco Peninsula. The area has very high Maori historic values. There has been extensive planting to restore the native vegetation. The Island was bought by the Oyster Island Preservation Society and gifted to council. It has toilets and a changing shed. There is no ferry access. The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2008 states of camping: “To generally prohibit camping in all esplanade and foreshore reserves, except by permit, on a short term basis at identified sites that have appropriate water and toilet facilities” (3.18), and of carparking: “Prohibit vehicle use in reserves except... permitted by individual reserve policies” (3.28.1). Oyster Island has a camping policy stating, “Allow short term camping provided all conditions set out in the camping general policy are met” (Policy 1).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	1	5	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	Yes per conditions

Vehicles do not have access to the Island and it is assessed to be highly significant (exceeds 9/15). Tenting is permitted in accordance with conditions including that permission is required of the council first.

Esplanade Reserves

Haulashore Island

This esplanade and recreation reserve was originally a Maori reserve and transferred to the Crown. It eventually passed through ownership structures until gifted to the council by Perrine Moncrieff in 1925. Part of the Island is subject to Iwi claim. The area has very high Maori and European historic values. Maori used the site for fishing and construction of stone tools. Oyster Island has a jetty, toilets and picnic facilities.

The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2008 states of camping: “To generally prohibit camping in all esplanade and foreshore reserves, except by permit, on a short term basis at identified sites that have appropriate water and toilet facilities” (3.18), and of carparking: “Prohibit vehicle use in reserves except... permitted by individual reserve policies” (3.28.1). Haulashore Island has a camping policy stating, “Designate as a short term camping site for organised groups” (Policy 2).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	2	5	12/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	Yes per conditions

Vehicles do not have access to the Island and it is assessed to be highly significant (exceeds 9/15). Tenting is permitted in accordance with conditions including that permission is required of the council first.



Esplanade Reserves

The Glen Beach Foreshore

This esplanade reserve is located in The Glen and services as access to the beach. The reserve has high lwi significance with nearby midden sites. The site does not have toilet facilities within a reasonable distance for non-self-contained vehicles, and an unformed carpark which can take around 12 vehicles.

The Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2008 states of camping: “To generally prohibit camping in all esplanade and foreshore reserves, except by permit, on a short term basis at identified sites that have appropriate water and toilet facilities” (3.18), and of carparking: “Prohibit vehicle use in reserves except... in designated roadways or parking areas” (3.28.1).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	1	4	9/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

There are no close toilet facilities to support tenting or non-self-contained vehicles. The area is popular for parking and viewing the ocean and also as a starting point for walks including the Boulder Bank and the trail to Cable Bay and therefore Freedom Camping is unable to be provided for.



Esplanade Reserves

Paremata Flats Reserve

Access to this reserve is off Maori Pa Road. The reserve is fully fenced and gated, being of high environmental value. The reserved was purchased for its environmental values and contains coastal regeneration forest planted by the local community, Forest and Bird and council. There is no formed carpark area.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	3	4	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The reserve ranks highly on significance for the environmental values and for this reason vehicle access is restricted from it. Health and Safety issues were elevated as the open paddock environment is not suitable for freedom camping vehicles. Access issues reflect the site's purpose for environmental planting which is incompatible for vehicles.

Esplanade Reserves

Wakapuaka Sandflats (Boulder Bank Drive) Carparks

This reserve provides access to the Wakapuaka Sewerage Plant and further along, to a surfing spot. The reserve borders a DoC reserve, being an environmentally sensitive coastal margin of boulder bank and vegetation. There is active regeneration of the area. This is also a significant site for migratory Godwits. There are two carparks for consideration of freedom camping. They are identified as the Sewerage Plant carpark, and ‘Snapper’s Carpark’ to the North East used by surfers.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Sewerage Plant Carpark Score:	4	1	1	6/15
Snapper’s Carpark Score:	4	3	4	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types			
Area	Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Sewerage Plant Carpark Score:	Yes (2 vehicles)	No	No
Snapper’s Carpark Score:	No	No	No

The sewerage plant carpark area is considered suitable for a small number of self-contained vehicles, given both size and amount of current usage. No non self-contained vehicles are appropriate at either site due to the lack of toilet facilities. No vehicles are recommended at the Snapper’s carpark area as it is well used by surfers, has a small number of parks and large vehicles on the sensitive coastal margin is not appropriate for environmental reasons.



Esplanade Reserves

Monaco Foreshore Reserves

This esplanade reserve includes the site of a former Scout Den which was closed and reformed into a picnic area. It has a picnic table on a reserve with outstanding views bordering the water’s edge. There is an unformed carpark with some 2-3 vehicle spaces.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The carpark space is very small and does not provide opportunity for campervans with public access.

The remainder of the reserve stretches along the foreshore of the Monaco Peninsula. It includes an attractive picnic area north of the Honest Lawyer Tavern but has no off street parking. It is not suitable for campervans.



Recreation and Sport Reserves

Neale Park, Guppy Park and Miyazu Park

These recreation reserves are on a former landfill site with access from State Highway 6, Atawhai Drive, North Rd, Weka St and Sovereign St. The reserves have a mix of a Japanese Garden with toilets open 24/7, a skate park, Founder’s Heritage Museum, a council nursery, changing facilities, dance club and pipe band buildings, active recreation sports grounds including rugby, cricket and soccer, and an area of boggy grassland. The reserve also borders a Marae. There are two carparks permitting around 30 vehicles.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	2	4	9/15
Miyazu Carpark	5	2	3	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types			
Area	Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Marae-end Carpark:	No	No	No
Sovereign St Carpark:	No	No	No
Skate Park Carpark	No	No	No
Weka St Carpark	No	No	No
North Rd and Carpark	No	No	No
Founders Carpark	No	No	No
Miyazu Carpark	No	No	No

The carpark near the marae has some 30 carparks and there is a set of toilets and refuse facilities. During tangi or Marae community gatherings there is a shortage of parking spaces, and freedom camping cannot be provided for.

The Sovereign St, Skatepark, Weka St and North Rd carparks are not suitable for freedom camping as they are required to service sport.

Founders carpark provides for Founders Museum, often for evening events and is not available.

The Miyazu Carpark provides for 4 cars which are required for visitors to the Miyazu Gardens. Use is high in the evenings and therefore unsuitable for freedom camping.

Recreation and Sport Reserves

Trafalgar Park

This is a recreation reserve and local purpose reserve. This is a significant reserve with high quality sand-based sportsground hosting major events of up to 10,000 spectators. Facilities on the reserve include grandstand, toilet and change facilities, netball, rugby and soccer facilities, squash club, brass band, and gym.

The Reserve Management Plan for Trafalgar Park allows for self-contained vehicles for two consecutive nights but non self-contained are not provided for.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types			
Area	Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Hathaway Tce Carpark:	No	No	No
Kinzett Tce Carpark:	Yes (4 vans in the northern Kinzett Terrace area)	No	No

This reserve scored highly for significance as it is the main outdoor events area for the City. It also has high access issues including night games and regular weekend usage. The Reserve Management Plan does not allow non self-contained. A provision for 4 vans can be made in the Kinzett Terrace area. However, in the Hathaway Terrace carpark no provision is made due to high congestion and access issues frequently in the week and weekends.



Recreation and Sport Reserves

Rutherford Park

This is a local purpose and recreation reserve. Part of the reserve is significant to Maori (Nelson Tenth's portion). Agreement about future use of the area with iwi is under discussion. The discussion to date centres on activities which are for 'park uses', which would not include freedom camping. The park contains the Trafalgar Centre indoor events centre, skate park, squash, tennis, croquet areas, an Arts Council building, Plunket and the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

The Reserve Management Plan for Rutherford Park contemplates freedom camping for two consecutive nights. However, under resource consent the conditions of consent are that the number of carparks are provided for the users. Additional draw on the carpark by freedom camping is not consented.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	1	5	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The Park is a significant recreation area in Nelson. No freedom camping is permitted on the site due to the resource consent requirements of the Trafalgar Centre, and the developing Iwi agreement.

Recreation and Sport Reserves

Andrew's Farm Reserve

This sports field reserve borders the Codgers' Mountain Bike Trails – the main mountain bike hub. The reserve contains a riding for disabled arena, organic garden, and open space for mountain bike events. Facilities include a composting toilet for the organic garden and a carpark with some 12 spaces. There is insufficient parking for the demand caused by mountain biking and planning is underway for an expanded carpark with some 50 carpark spaces.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	1	5	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This is a carparking area under considerable stress from congestion which is a major issue to local people and mountain bikers alike. It is not appropriate to add to this issue with freedom camping vehicles. For this reason the 'Access' criteria has scored highly.

Recreation and Sport Reserves

Botanics Sports field

The Botanics Sports field is the site of the first rugby game in New Zealand played in 1870. This recreation reserve was vested in council in 1966 and contains notable trees. Facilities include playing fields, clubrooms, toilets open 24/7, playground, cricket nets and pitch, boardwalk and trails. It is well used in summer and winter. The reserve contains angle carparking for some 12 vehicles.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	3	9/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The reserve is assessed as significant historically and due to its present high quality amenity values. With only 12 carpark spaces it does not provide for freedom camping.



Recreation and Sport Reserves

Maitai Cricket Ground

This recreation reserve was purchased from a neighbouring landowner in the 1990s for the purpose of a sports ground to add to Branford Reserve. It is used for cricket, soccer, weekend junior sports, dog walking and some mountain biking. There are no toilet facilities and an unformed carpark with some 10 vehicle spaces.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	3	7/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (2 vehicles)	No	No

The area would support overnighting by a small number of self-contained vehicles, but not non self-contained due to the lack of toilet facilities. Due to the small number of carparks only two are recommended available for self-contained vehicles to be moved on before weekend sport begins.

Recreation and Sport Reserves

Pioneers Park Sports Ground

This neighbourhood reserve is used as a sports ground with clubrooms, playground, youth meeting room, toilets, Nelson Athletics building, junior soccer and the meeting place for various Nelson sports groups. It is well used and located in an area of high density housing, close to the City. There is a carpark with 21 spaces around the clubroom which is used most nights. The road edge is unsuitable for carparking as a steep slope drops away.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	5	9/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The site is not suitable for freedom camping as it has very few carparks at a well-used facility. Conflict of space is too great.



Recreation and Sport Reserves

Tahunanui Recreation Reserve

This is one of Nelson’s premier recreation reserves with high landscape and ecological values. The 2.6ha area was part-purchased from the Green estate in 1900 for recreational use. Six Iwi have mana whenua over the area and are clarifying ownership. It was an historic area for seafood gathering. The back beach embayment has nationally significant ecological values. Multiple sports and passive recreation users recreate in the area. Its facilities include playground and skate park equipment, Tahuna Fun Park, megaslide, commercial hospitality and community facilities, campground and multiple sporting codes using sports field throughout the year.

The Tahuna Reserve Management Plan 2004 does not permit freedom camping. The Plan states (1.16.6) “Camping is only permitted in the motor camp.” The Tahuna campground offers a low rate of \$10 (2016/17) camping on site for motorhomes.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

Freedom camping is not permitted under the Tahuna Reserve Management Plan 2004.



Recreation and Sport Reserves

Ngawhatu Sports Field

This is a recreation reserve with a cricket wicket and two rugby league fields. There are also changing rooms and a playground. The carpark has some 12 spaces.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	4	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

There are not currently carparking or toilet facilities for freedom camping. The reserve is well used by the public for sports and the carpark is required to service sport.

Recreation and Sport Reserves

Marsden Recreation Ground

This recreation reserve located in Stoke is a significant hub for Stoke sports. Originally it was gifted to the City with a caveat stating, “For the playing of English games.” Facilities on the site include cricket and pavilion, toy library, indoor bowls Stoke Community Hall, age centre, Plunket rooms, and toilets within a building which are inaccessible to freedom camping. A carpark with some 50 parks services well used buildings. The Stoke Community Hall is one of Nelson’s most utilised hall facilities and the facilities are used most nights including 21st birthday parties, wedding functions and other events.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	1	3	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

Without toilet facilities the carpark is not suitable for non self-contained. The carpark is also not suitable for self-contained as it is a well-used area requiring the parks to service the community.



Recreation and Sport Reserves

Saxton Field

Saxton Field recreation reserve is Nelson’s premier sports ground hosting international games for cricket, softball and hockey. The facility is jointly owned with Tasman District Council. This top quality sports ground includes fields, stands, athletics track, indoor stadium, netball courts, hockey, softball, indoor cricket, small-bore rifle, archery, soccer fields, outdoor velodrome and playgrounds. The site has large numbers of carparks available but these are well used in the evenings and at weekends.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

Saxton Field exceeds the significance score as the premier sports facility in Nelson. It is a controlled site including its carparking, so freedom camping is not appropriate here.



Recreation and Sport Reserves

Greenmeadows Reserve

This is a recreation reserve purchased in the 1950s for the purpose of sports grounds. It contains sports fields, clubrooms and 5 tennis courts. Currently a new Community Centre is being constructed on the site. There are no formed carparking or toilet facilities open to the general public at this time. However, when construction of the Community Centre is completed, these facilities will be provided.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

There are not currently carparking or toilet facilities for freedom camping. However when the Community Centre is built the appropriateness for freedom camping can be reassessed. The future availability of carparking will be guided by the resource consent conditions which stipulate how many carparks must be made available for the consented building.

Neighbourhood Reserves

Glenduan Reserve

This recreation reserve with sportsground located on the boulder bank coastal margin. It borders a reserve of national significance managed by Department of Conservation. The reserve was purchased from a neighbouring farmer for a community resource. The reserve itself also has areas of cultural significance including Iwi midden sites. The reserve includes soccer fields, general sports ground, native regeneration plantings, pathway, small skate ramp, children’s playground, toilet facility open 24/7 and a carpark with around 20 carparks.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	2	4	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

There are basic toilet facilities, however the car park is locked at night in agreement with nearby residents to prevent noisy behavior. The purpose of the reserve does not lend itself to a camping site.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Corder Park

This is a recreation reserve with access off Atawhai Crescent for the purpose of cycling, walking and running. The reserve has a sewerage pump station, play centre, and open space. There are no toilet facilities. There is a carpark attached to the play centre but is for use of play centre parents and staff. Cars park on the roadside edge. There is also tidal encroachment into part of the reserve.

The Reserve Management Plan for Corder Park highlights issues caused by vehicles on the reserve and rubbish left.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	2	4	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This site does not have formed access and the playground carpark is not appropriate. There are no toilets. In addition the Reserve Management Plan already outlines issues of vehicles on the reserve and rubbish left behind.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Wakapuaka Reserve

Wakapuaka Hall is on neighbourhood reserve land, located on SH6. It was vested in council from the former Waimea County in 1988. On the reserve is a hall, tennis courts, play centre, playground, recreation space, war memorial, toilets open 24/7, and an unformed carpark with some 40 spaces. The reserve has high daily usage for tennis and play centre.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	4	1	7/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (3 sites)	No	No

The reserve rates high for Health and Safety concerns due to the conflict of vehicles and children. It is an uncontrolled site. The site is appropriate for self-contained vehicles with time restrictions on Saturday morning (vacate by 8am). Unfortunately the toilet is not adequate for non self-contained vehicle needs and nor is there adequate rubbish facilities. If the area is enhanced in future this site could be suitable for non self-contained vehicles.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Hira Reserve

This reserve caters for local people enjoying the Wakapuaka River, picnics and BBQs. It has few facilities and there is one long drop toilet. There is a Reserve Management Plan over the area which highlights the roughly graded road as restricting vehicle access and the risk of polluting the River.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	2	3	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The reserve is not suitable for motorhome vehicles and has an uncontrolled environment with the general public. The toilets are not high quality and are considered to be at capacity already. There are no rubbish facilities.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Branford Park

This is a large and beautiful neighbourhood reserve with open grassed space on route to the Maitai Valley. Access is restricted by bollards. There is a large carpark on the north east end with access to the river at Dennes Hole and a toilet nearby. The area near the river at Black Hole is used by local people for a swimming hole. Parking spaces are well used. On the south west end of the reserve are two further carparks allowing some 30 vehicles and further carparks on the opposite side of Maitai Valley Road near the quarry.

The reserve is a significant green space for the nearby city. Because of the popularity of the area for picnicking there has been an historic position of keeping camping out of this area.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The area scored highly for significance due to its importance to the city public for recreation. Access is also scored highly as the reserve has been bollarded off to restrict vehicle access. Considering the evening use of the reserve there simply is not room for motorhome vehicles.

Neighbourhood Reserves

Waahi Taakaro Reserve

This reserve up the Maitai Valley is adjacent the Maitai River and includes the swimming hole 'Sunday Hole'. It is a picnic and recreation area for city residents. A carpark at Sunday Hole can cater for some 20 vehicles. This reflects an ongoing issue with reserves in the area of vandalism and vagrancy.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	3	5	12/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The reserve ranks highly on significance as it is a premier playground for local residents. Health and Safety and Access rank highly as safety cannot be guaranteed with the vandalism and issues in the area at night. The carpark has been locked at night as a result.

Neighbourhood Reserves

Centennial Park

Centennial Reserve in Tahunanui is a neighbourhood reserve with sports ground and passive recreation. It has no toilet facilities but does have a carpark with holds some 18 vehicles.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	1	4/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (4 vehicles)	No	No

This reserve is suitable for self-contained vehicle parking. No non self-contained are contemplated as there are no toilet facilities.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Burrell Park

This is a neighbourhood reserve close to the Centennial Reserve. It is open space with meeting rooms in the Tahuna Community Centre. The Community Centre hosts a play group and Tai chi. The Park has a small carpark for some 16 cars which is well used by the Community Centre and play group. There are toilets inside the building which are accessible when the building is in use.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

Burrell Park only has limited access for users and toilet facilities are only available to users of the building.

Neighbourhood Reserves

Tosswill Reserve

Tosswill Reserve is a sports park hosting bowling and tennis. There is a carpark of some 30 vehicles to cater for the clubs. The carpark is well used. Toilet facilities are available to club members and open when sports are being played. The facilities are well used in daytime and evening.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The reserve is well used by clubs and limited in facilities for non self-contained vehicles as well.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Monaco Reserve

This is neighbourhood reserve with grassed area for community recreating in the Monaco community. There is a carpark with some 12 spaces. The reserve has a set of basic public toilets open 24/7 some 80m away from the carpark.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The space is suitable for self-contained vehicles, however the parking area is currently locked at night to avoid disturbance to the adjacent neighbour. This indicates that this area is unsuitable for freedom camping.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Pipers Park

This is a recreation which contains revegetating areas and mountain bike tracks. There is also a walking track route towards Tahuna Beach. The reserve does not have toilet facilities. Parking is provided at the end of Emano Street, but is minimal and unformed.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

Access has been assessed highly as there is no genuine access for vehicles to the area. Those using several unformed points are mountain bikers accessing the trails.

Neighbourhood Reserves

Betsy Eyre Park

This neighbourhood reserve borders the Codgers’ Mountain Bike Trails – the main mountain bike park. In recent years it has served as the carpark area for mountain bikers which has caused considerable contention with neighbouring residents. To resolve issues planning is underway for an expanded carpark with some 50 carparks further up the Brook Valley.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	2	5	9/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This is a carparking area under considerable stress from congestion which is a major issue to local people and mountain bikers alike. It is not appropriate to add to this issue with freedom camping vehicles. For this reason the Access criteria has scored highly. The carparking is likely to be removed.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Betsy Eyre (North) Park

This small recreation reserve was gazetted in 1976. It contains open space with mature trees. There is an unformed carpark with some 3-4 carpark spaces. The intention on the reserve is to retire it completely to native plantings. There are no toilet facilities.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

While there could be a case for self-contained vehicles in this carpark, there is an intention to retire the area for planting. Allowing vehicles under these circumstances would be confusing.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Cattle Market Reserve

This neighbourhood park was the original site of the cattle market. Today it hosts the Centennial Bowling Club with a number of New Zealand champion bowlers having come from this club. There is club carpark with some 30 carparks, all of which are used by the Bowling Club.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The carparking area scores highly for Access as the area is well used for the Bowling Club.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Enner Glynn Reserve

This neighbourhood reserve is located on Enner Glynn Road. It contains a kindergarten and plantings. There are 8 carparks and no publicly accessible toilet facilities. The carparks are well used by the kindergarten and primarily for this purpose.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

Access scores highly as this carparking area is primarily for kindergarten use and not appropriate for freedom camping.

Neighbourhood Reserves

Grove Reserve

This neighbourhood reserve was received by council as a bequest from R.B. Jackson in the early 1900s. It contains a kindergarten, playground and toy library. There is vehicular access which serves as a drop-off point for kindergarten parents. There are no publicly accessible toilet facilities.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The Access criteria scored highly as there are very few carparks and the primary purpose as a drop-off area.

Neighbourhood Reserves

Hanby Park

Hanby Park is a pretty park located on Hanby Road. This is a neighbourhood park which fulfils esplanade purposes. The park is part of the Maitai Walkway / Cycleway and is adjacent to a popular swimming hole. There are no toilets on-site and no parking.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	1	4/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This area is unsuitable for freedom camping.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Hockey Reserve

Hockey Reserve is adjacent to the esplanade reserve at Brook Stream. This neighbourhood reserve has been vested in council through subdivision reserve contribution. It contains a children’s playground to accommodate the subdivision families and some 4 carparks. The playground is particularly popular and attracts residents from a wider area of the City. There are no toilet facilities and the community has been asking for toilet facilities to be constructed.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The Access criteria has scored highly as there are only 4 carparks for a very popular playground. Freedom camping purposes cannot be considered here.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Moncrieff Reserve

This neighbourhood reserve located in the Tahuna Hills was vested in council through subdivision reserve contributions. It has an accessway and walkway with a viewing platform over Tasman Bay. There are no facilities nor formed carpark.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	1	5	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The Significance criteria scored highly due to the reserve’s popularity of stunning Tasman Bay views. However there is no formed carparking area.

Neighbourhood Reserves

Norgate Reserve

This neighbourhood reserve is located close to the Annesbrook roundabout. It was vested in council through subdivision reserve contributions. The reserve contains tree plantings with three unformed carparks.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The small carparking area is located on NZTA land however its use for freedom camping would restrict access to the Council Reserve. There are no toilet facilities.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Paddy’s Knob Reserve

This neighbourhood reserve has a viewing platform and well photographed views over Tasman Bay. There is well established vegetation on the site but no toilet facilities. The formed carpark contains 3 bus parks and 5 carparks and has congestion during the day. There is discussion with neighbouring residents about the potential for a future playground on the site which would likely reduce the number of carparks.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	3	4	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (4)	No	No

This carparking area would be suitable for self-contained campervans overnighting who could use 4 of the existing car park spaces. Congestion is more a daytime issue. There are no facilities to support non self-contained vehicles. Health and Safety rated higher due to vandalism issues on the park.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Riverside Reserve

Riverside Reserve is a neighbourhood reserve at Riverside Pool. Riverside Pool is the main pool complex for Nelson City and is well used by park goers and swimmers from early morning to evening. There are some 40 carparks.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The carparking area is dedicated for pool and park use and is not suitable for freedom camping.



Neighbourhood Reserves

Russell Reserve

This neighbourhood reserve is located on a steep hillside. It has a playground, tree and a walking track. There are no toilets and a small carpark for 2 vehicles only.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

There is insufficient carparking space for freedom camping use.



Public Garden

ANZAC Memorial Park

ANZAC Park is a significant cultural site in Nelson with the main RSA Memorial site, public toilets and a number of notable trees. The RSA have a significant stake in usage of the reserve. The reserve contains a public garden. The Reserve itself does not have a carpark.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This site is of significant cultural value. Access issues are rated highly as no carparking is provided on the site. Freedom camping is not permitted.

Public Garden

Queen's Gardens

Queen's Gardens are Nelson's premier public gardens and do not contain vehicle access. The site includes notable trees and is significant to both iwi and European history. It was an original eeling site for local Maori. The site includes toilet and refuse facilities, and walks.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

Queen's Gardens ranks as significant on the scoring due to its high cultural and botanic significance. Access issues are rated highly as no carparking is provided on the site. Therefore no freedom camping is appropriate.

Public Garden

Pikimai (Church Hill)

This reserve contains high quality public gardens, a cathedral, and listed trees and includes an historic Maori Pa site. There is a carpark servicing the cathedral but it is under the control of the Diocesan.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

No freedom camping is permitted on the site due to its highly significant values.



Public Garden

Broadgreen Gardens

This reserve is a public garden containing the historic Broadgreen pioneer homestead and grounds. The building dates to the 1840s. The house is now a museum with surrounding rose gardens. There is a standalone toilet block and a small carpark for some 3 vehicles.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This is a significant reserve to the City and has a very small carpark not enabling other vehicles to share the space.



Public Garden

Isel Park

Isel Park is a public gardens recreation reserve purchased in the 1950s. It is the site of the historic Thomas Marsden home which has heritage status. The house also has museum storage, grounds and carparking which services Isel House and reserve with some 15 carparking spaces. There is also a second carpark off Main Road Stoke which has some 30 carpark spaces. This also services the adjacent church and cemetery and Greenmeadows Recreation Reserve.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Marsden House Carpark Score:	5	1	5	11/15
Main Rd Stoke Carpark Score:	4	1	2	7/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types			
Area	Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Isel House Carpark Score:	No	No	No
Main Rd Stoke Carpark Score:	Yes (3)	No	No

The Isel House carparking area is not appropriate for freedom camping. It is a significant site with a carpark well used by locals and visitors to the historic building and museum. The Main Road Stoke carpark also serves Greenmeadows, one of Nelson’s busiest sports fields. For this reason freedom camping is limited to 3.



Landscape Reserves

Grampians Reserve

The Grampians is a 160 hectare, hilly landscape reserve that forms the greenbelt backdrop to the City. The reserve is used for walking activities. It has almost no public vehicular access and a small unformed carpark with some 6 spaces off Market Road.

In the Conservation and Landscapes Reserve Management Plan 2009, significant issues for management in the reserve include the risk of wild fire and invasive pests. Regarding vehicle use and carparking (5.23) the Reserve Management Plan allows parking on designated (meaning, officially formed) roadways and parking area so long as it does not threaten habitats, water quality, heritage values or conflicts with other reserve users. Under the Reserve Management Plan camping is permitted in provided-for huts (5.17), but currently there are none in this reserve.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	4	5	14/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The Grampians does not have sufficient access for motorhomes, and parking is not permitted anyway under the Plan as the small number of informal carparks are unformed.

Conservation Reserves

Marsden Valley Reserve

This is a conservation reserve with significant native vegetation including Kahikatea and Totara, and part forestry. There are also indigenous bird populations. The reserve has walking tracks (including the Involution Track), mountain biking trail, and a campsite well into the interior. There are no toilet facilities near vehicle access points.

There are two carparking areas which are unformed. One is located at Involution track on the Marsden Valley Road near to Glider Road and accommodates some 12 sites. The other is at the turnaround on Marsden Valley Road. This is a turnaround – not a car park, but cars park there. The reserve includes a war memorial, entrance to a walking track and is a school planting and regeneration site.

In the Conservation and Landscapes Reserve Management Plan 2009, significant issues for management in the reserve include the protection of vegetation and limiting of public access and to animals. Regarding vehicle use and carparking (5.23) the Reserve Management Plan allows parking on designated (meaning, officially formed) roadways and parking area so long as it does not threaten habitats, water quality, heritage values or conflicts with other reserve users. Camping is permitted in provided-for huts (5.17).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	1	4	9/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	Yes (per conditions)

The carparking areas are not formed official areas, and are small. Freedom camping is not permitted under the Conservation and Landscapes Reserve Management Plan 2009. There are enough informal sites to cater for public use access only. Tenting is permitted at designated campgrounds in the interior, not accessible by road.

Conservation Reserves

Roding Water Reserve

This is a local purpose reserve for the purpose of providing water to Nelson City from the headwaters of the Roding River. The reserve traverses both Nelson City and Tasman District local government boundaries. It contains archaeological sites of regional and national significance such as Champion Smelter. Many other sites are undocumented. The reserve is also a significant bird breeding area, and contains three historic copper mines from the 1800s. There are no toilet facilities in the Nelson City portion of the reserve.

In the Conservation and Landscapes Reserve Management Plan 2009, significant issues for management in the reserve include the need to limit public access to protect water quality. Regarding vehicle use and carparking, Policy 6.1.11 of the Reserve Management Plan restricts vehicle access to the area behind the caretaker's house. Camping is permitted in provided-for huts (5.17).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	4	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	Yes (per conditions)

This is assessed as a significant reserve due to its ecological and historic values, and water purposes. Carparking is not permitted under the Conservation and Landscapes Reserve Management Plan 2009 apart from behind the caretaker's house, which is not appropriate for freedom camping. Tenting is permitted at the official campground in the interior, not accessible by road.

Conservation Reserves

Maitai Water Reserve

This is a local purpose reserve for the purpose of providing water to Nelson City from the headwaters of the Matai River. It contains ecosystems regarded as 'originally rare' and are nationally listed as a priority for protection. It also contains historic copper mining heritage. Vehicle access is along the Maungatapu Track which is locked at night due to vandalism and vagrancy problems.

In the Conservation and Landscapes Reserve Management Plan 2009, significant issues for management in the reserve include the need to limit public from the Maungatapu Track due to damage of the track and the conflict of vehicles and other users of the reserve (p.39).

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	3	5	13/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This is assessed as a significant reserve due to its ecological and historic values, and water purposes. Carparking is not provided for under the Conservation and Landscapes Reserve Management Plan 2009 and vehicular access is prevented by locked gate at night due to vandalism problems.

Carparks

Wakatu Carpark

This carpark is located on Achilles Avenue and offers some 170 paid carpark spaces, with no toilet facilities. The purpose of the carpark is retail parking and it is used from early morning to late in the evening. It is often full.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	2	1	5/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (20 vehicles)	No	No

This carpark does not have toilet facilities. A number of 20 self-contained vehicles are recommended to be permitted in specifically posted spaces to enable ease of management of regulatory staff.

Carparks

Montgomery Carpark

Montgomery carpark has some 274 carpark spaces allowing a maximum stay of 3 hours. Facilities on-site include a facility with toilets (including some open 24/7), showers and laundry. Weekend usage means that the carpark has restrictions on use from 3am Saturday morning and all day Sunday. This carpark has permitted both self-contained and non self-contained freedom camping with considerable documented issues including inappropriate use of washing facilities, environmental concerns with the flow of grey water to the Maitai River, conflict over perceptions of the inner city carpark as a camping ground, and visual nuisance of unkempt non self-contained van spaces and visitors not fully clothed in public.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	2	3	7/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (20 vehicles)	No	No

The carpark does support the use of non self-contained vehicles with its 24/7 toilet facilities. However the weight of issues by past non self-contained freedom campers leads to the recommendation that none be permitted on-site. A number of 20 self-contained vehicles are recommended to be permitted under time conditions (6pm to 7.30am, except on Friday and Saturday nights) as markets are held on the Square on Saturdays and Sundays and early setups are required. Specifically posted campervan spaces will be made available to enable ease of management of regulatory staff.

The draft Nelson City Freedom Camping Strategic Plan 2016 considered the carpark for freedom camping and concluded that the City's camping grounds need to be supported and the development of carpark spaces into surrogate camping grounds is not supported by the draft Strategy. Self-contained vehicles were supported for overnighting.



Carparks

Buxton Carpark

Buxton carpark has some 315 paid carpark spaces allowing a maximum stay of 3 hours. Facilities on-site include toilets open 24/7 and rubbish facilities. This carpark has permitted both self-contained and non self-contained freedom camping in the past with some documented issues including environmental concerns with the flow of grey water to the Maitai River, opposition to its use for freedom camping by New Zealand Police, conflict over perceptions of the inner city carpark as a camping ground, and visual nuisance of unkempt non self-contained van spaces and visitors not fully clothed in public. A counter opinion was that Buxton Carpark was suitable for non self-contained vehicles as it aided surveillance on a historically troubled space at night, and added to the cosmopolitan inner-city aura.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	2	3	7/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (20 vehicles)	No	No

The carpark does support the use of non self-contained vehicles with its 27/7 toilet facilities. However the weight of issues by past non self-contained freedom campers leads to the recommendation in this Assessment that none be permitted on-site. A number of 20 self-contained vehicles are recommended to be permitted in specifically posted spaces to enable ease of management of regulatory staff.

The Nelson City Freedom Camping Strategic Plan 2016 considered the carpark for freedom camping and concluded that the City's camping grounds need to be supported and the development of carpark into surrogate camping grounds is not supported by the Strategy. Self-contained vehicles were supported for overnighting. Non self-contained was also supported subject to the preference of elected council in the matter.



Carparks

Miller’s Acre Carpark

This carpark has some 65 carpark spaces allowing a maximum stay of 3 hours. Located adjacent to the Information Centre the carpark was opened some time ago to non self-contained vehicles to support the link to tourism information. After a spate of nuisance and rubbish incidents on the site the carpark was closed to non self-contained vehicles and remains so. There is conflict of space in this carpark.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	2	4	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The carpark is well used at night by movie goers, as it provides nearby parking for the cinema. The carpark toilet facilities are closed at night, and with a history of civic problems caused by freedom campers, this carpark is not recommended for either category of vehicle.

Carparks

Strawbridge Square

This carpark has some 160 parks serving the surrounding shopping centre of Stoke. There is shortage of space in this carpark.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	2	4	10/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The carpark toilet facilities are adjacent to the library . Visibility into the site is poor, and the carpark well used. It is not recommended for either category of vehicle.

Road Reserves

Haven Road - adjacent to ANZAC Park

There are some 38 car parks in the Haven Road road reserve adjacent to ANZAC Park. The parks team has identified issues in the reserve caused by non self-contained freedom campers walking through high value shrubbery to use the toilet facilities. Plants are being damaged.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	3	9/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

This site is of significant cultural value and also has issues of congestion at times. Whilst there are toilet facilities which are open 24/7, due to the historic issues with freedom campers damaging plants non self-contained freedom camping is not permitted.



Road Reserves

Riverside

Riverside is a road leading to a neighbourhood reserve and the Riverside Pool, which is the main pool complex for Nelson City. The road culminates in a carpark which is well used by park goers, and swimmers from early morning to evening. There are some 40 carparks.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	5	8/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The carparking area is used by pool and park users and is not suitable for freedom camping.



Queen Elizabeth II (Gardens) Reserve

This reserve is partially owned by NZTA and partly by the Council and located on the seaward side of QE II Drive opposite Neale Park. There is a management agreement between NZTA and Nelson City Council for the reserve's maintenance. Carparking consists of a State Highway 6 layby. Under NZTA's policy position freedom camping is permitted. There is no clause in the management agreement permitting Nelson City Council to modify this stance.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	2	1	5/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (sharing carparking space)	No	No

The layby area is guided by NZTA policies which permit freedom camping. Self-contained vehicles can share the carparking space but there are no toilet facilities to recommend non self-contained vehicles.

Other Nelson City Local Authority Areas

Nelson Inner-City Streets (Inner-City Zone)

The freedom camping strategic review 2016 recommends an approach of providing a warm embracing City to visitors in a way which balances economic benefits with City values and quality of environment. The inner-City has proved popular for visitors over the years. This Site Assessment has recommended that freedom camping in self-contained certified vehicles be permitted in several inner-city carparks with restrictions on hours and numbers of vehicles.

At peak, Nelson City may be catering for up to 510 vehicles per night which are looking to stay 1-2 nights. The concentration of vehicles in the inner-City has historically led to issues of public feedback and conflict with various options being developed to manage the effects of Freedom Camping. Sites trialled and abandoned for Freedom Camping have included Sovereign Street and Miller’s Acre Carpark.

The inner-City zone has been defined by council as the streets bounded by Grove Street, Halifax Street, Haven Road, Rutherford Street, Selwyn Place, Selwyn Place West and Collingwood Street.



Inner-City Zone (excluding restricted carparks)

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	3	1	9/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
No	No	No

The inner-City zone rates as highly significant to the Nelson community. Considerable research has been undertaken into the issues surrounding the inner-City area and freedom camping to arrive at this recommendation. The research is outlined in the next section relating to Other Nelson Streets, and relates to both sections. Health and Safety issues for visitors has been elevated to a 3 in consideration of reported crime toward visitors in the inner-City.

Nelson City Streets (other)

As mentioned in the last section, the freedom camping strategic review 2016 recommended an approach of providing a warm embracing City to visitors in a way which balances economic benefits with City values and quality of environment.

In the current regulatory regime, generally both self-contained and non self-contained are permitted anywhere except for Residential and Open Space zoned land with exclusions from a number of reserves.

Legislative purpose	Area/significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	2	1	6/15

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Freedom camping self-contained	Freedom Camping non-self-contained	Freedom Camping - tenting
Yes (subject to other bylaws and legislation)	No	No

A recommended position is that self-contained vehicles can be allowed to overnight in the City streets (excluding the inner-City zone), but not non-self-contained or tenting. The following summary of research has been undertaken in 2016.¹

- a. **Community Views:** Freedom Camping occurs within a community context of balancing the benefits of the visitor industry with the community impacts. Nelson residents have expressed concern to their elected members through letter and Annual Plan submissions, and to the media. There have also been community voices in support of the embracing attitude of the council toward Freedom Campers. The main concerns expressed were:
 - **Self-containment:** Almost all interviews in the strategic planning process conducted with community people expressed a clear difference between self-contained and non self-contained vehicles. This sample of people who have expressed views to council are relaxed toward the overnight parking of self-contained vehicles but not tolerant of non self-contained vans parking in the manner currently permitted. This view was expressed by Nelson resident Catherine Ayres in the media 31 December 2015², "I think if the vehicle isn't self-contained and there are no public toilets on site, then you shouldn't be camping there. A self-contained vehicle takes all its waste with it. We live in Nelson and the road past our house is on the way to a popular river. Every day, we clean up rubbish thrown from cars. Campers leaving rubbish is a very small problem. Wherever we freedom camp we clean up any rubbish we see lying around, as do a lot of campers we know."

¹ Refer draft Nelson City Council Freedom camping Strategic Plan (2016)

² <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff-nation/assignments/should-freedom-camping-be-restricted/13552736/Toilets-biggest-problem-for-freedom-campers>

- **Inner-City Profile:** Some interviewed expressed views that the inner-city profile for Nelson should not contain the image of non self-contained freedom campers sleeping on benches, doing ablutions in plain sight, nor of people spreading out in a radius around the vans with various furniture. They did not support non self-contained in the Montgomery and Buxton Street carparks.
 - **Hygiene and standards:** Several community people have contributed information to council and the media on public standards of non self-contained freedom campers that they find offensive or unhealthy. These behaviours include not fully clothed people in and out of the vans, washing underwear and clothing in public toilets, washing themselves in public toilets, fouling the environment and leaving refuse behind. A related connection to public standards was the high dissatisfaction with Wicked Campers van artwork and a call for their banning.
 - **Environmental:** The behaviour of some freedom campers from non self-contained vehicles in fouling the environment and leaving rubbish behind is not consistent with Nelson's environmental standards. Others highlighted the grey water from freedom camper activities flowing into the Maitai River.
 - **Funding equity:** Several people interviewed raised the issue of funding for public facilities. They felt that as ratepayers they were funding public toilets and facilities freely used by freedom campers and were not happy to do so. The feeling they hold are exacerbated by those freedom campers who use facilities freely and then leave behind rubbish or other evidences of their stay.
 - **Welcoming:** There was a general feeling of wanting to welcome visitors in Nelson by all interviewed. Interviewees did not see themselves as unwelcoming to non self-contained freedom campers, but they wanted this category of visitor's behaviours better managed by council policy. One interviewed was embracing of non self-contained freedom campers and noted that their presence in carparks added to the security of that area by the surveillance function they played.
 - **Facilities and signage:** Community interviews wanted there to be more public toilets in State Highways (NZTA) more signage directing freedom campers to some areas, more recycling facilities where freedom campers overnight, and more regular emptying of refuse facilities in peak times.
 - **Saturday Market:** There was a consistent message from community people that conflicts of space between freedom campers and the Saturday market needed to be addressed. The views ranged from enforcement officers more effectively managing this early on Saturday morning to removing freedom camping from Trafalgar Street Carpark, or prohibiting them from overnighting on Friday.
- b. **Commercial Views:** Accommodation owners report concerns at the public subsidising of tourism (campervan) accommodation. By allowing freedom camping and their free use of public facilities,

the commercial accommodation sector feels disadvantaged. They objected to the rates funding of increased cleaning of toilets and rubbish removal on permitted sites. Locally, campground owners are united in their advice to council that the City needs to be supporting its own campgrounds and promoting their use to non self-contained vehicles³. They do not support any non self-contained vehicles parked in the City or surrounding environs. This view is also shared by the Nelson Hospitality Association⁴.

The Regional Tourism Organisation view of the freedom camping issue is⁵:

- Non self-contained vehicles should only be permitted to stay in camping grounds;
- The messaging should be welcoming, given good information and a refreshed format, and emphasise environmental responsibility;
- Enforcement needs to be consistent and effective.

c. Customer Complaints: In the 2015/16 year, there have been 79 complaints relating to freedom camping in Council’s service request system. The complaints were located across the city from Tahunanui through to numerous council reserves, inner-City carparks, urban and residential streets, and even freedom campers camping in cemeteries and playgrounds. Almost all related to non self-contained vehicles. The main issues recorded and some select comments were⁶:

Issue	Number Complaints Recorded
Camping in prohibited areas	38
Camping too many days	17
Waste going to water course	2
Rubbish discarded	2
Inappropriate use of public facilities	2
Toileting in public areas	2
Lighting fires	1
Living in a car	1
Parking across parking spaces	1

d. Vehicles at peak and displacement issues: At peak, Nelson City may be catering for up to 510 vehicles per night which are looking to stay 1-2 nights. The concentration of vehicles in the inner-City has historically led to issues of public feedback and conflict with various options being developed to manage the effects of Freedom Camping. Nelson City Council has three campgrounds at Tahunanui, the Brook and in the Maitai Valley. In addition, there is another commercially run Top 10 campground near the City centre. Tahuna campground turned away an estimated 50 vehicles on its busiest day (New Year’s Eve). Maitai has ample capacity even at peak. Overall, in Nelson there is sufficient space to accommodate anticipated demand.

³ Pers comms Carol Wood, Marcel Fekkes

⁴ Pers comms John Gilbertson

⁵ Pers comms Lynda Keene

⁶ Service Request System 12/7/15 to 15/6/16. Pers comms. Jules Read