

22 May 2019

To: Omaha Beach Community Inc.
CC: Councillor Greg Sayers and Councillor Linda Cooper

Proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw

I am writing regarding the concerns that have been raised regarding the proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw. We understand that some of your members doubt whether the hearings panel has adequately considered your organisation's submission on the three restricted freedom camping sites proposed within Omaha.

As you know, the Rodney Local Board recommended to the Regulatory Committee in June 2018 that freedom camping on a number of sites be prohibited or restricted under the proposed bylaw. This recommendation was made on the understanding that local communities would be able to provide feedback on the proposed bylaw before it was finalised. During our subsequent presentation to the hearings panel in February this year, I made it clear that we had expected to see all local feedback before reiterating our local board feedback to the hearings panel. Sadly, the process did not allow that to occur so the local board presentation was made in the absence of seeing all submissions, but having made the point, we have expected the remainder of the process, including the panel deliberations, to carefully consider all public feedback.

I would like to reiterate that the Rodney Local Board is not the decision maker on this bylaw. The local board's role in this process ended with the presentation in February. The hearings panel will deliberate and make a recommendation, with the ultimate decision to be made by the Governing Body.

Please note that the hearings panel will re-commence deliberations at the end of this month. The decisions made during the deliberations will also be revisited at the end of the whole process to ensure that the panel's recommendations to the Governing Body deliver on the bylaw's purpose and legal requirements, while also being consistent and balanced.

If you have ongoing concerns or questions over the hearing panel's processes or its recommendations to the Governing Body, please contact Councillor Greg Sayers as the local ward councillor. The approval of this bylaw is a regional decision and as Greg is the representative at that level, he is best placed to relay any concerns you may have back through the decision makers.

Kind Regards,



Beth Houlbrooke
Chairperson of the Rodney Local Board