

Council Policy

Policy Title:	Freedom Camping Policy 2022
Responsibility:	Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services
First Adopted:	13 March 2012
Review Frequency:	Three yearly or as required
Last Reviewed:	August 2022
Next Review Due:	August 2025
Doc No	File No



1 Policy Objectives

- 1.1 To promote safe and environmentally responsible overnight camping within the Ruapehu District.
- 1.2 To set out Council's requirement of parties who are freedom camping in self-contained vehicles in order to protect and minimise littering and dumping of toilet waste.
- 1.3 To provide information about the services and facilities available to freedom campers so that freedom camping can be enjoyed within the boundaries of the Ruapehu District.

2 Definitions

2.1 Authorised Officer

Any person appointed or authorised by the Council to act on its behalf and with its authority.

2.2 Council

Ruapehu District Council.

2.4 Camping Ground

Section 5 (3) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, defines camping ground as;

- (a) a camping ground that is the subject of a current certificate of registration under the camping grounds regulation 1985 and
- (b) any site at which a fee is payable for camping at the site

2.6 Certified self-contained vehicle

A vehicle that meets the New Zealand Standard for Self-Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans, NZS 5465:2001. A certified self-contained vehicle meets the ablutionary and sanitary needs of the occupants for a minimum of three days, without requiring any external services or discharging waste.

Under the Standard, it is a requirement for a vehicle to display the self containment certificate, a warrant card and a blue responsible camper sticker to demonstrate compliance with the minimum requirement of the Standard.

2.3 Enforcement Officer

The Freedom Camping Act (the Act) defines 'enforcement officer; as *'a person appointed as an enforcement officer under section 32 or 33'*

Section 32 '**Appointment of enforcement officers by local authorities'** states;

- (1) A local authority may appoint persons to be enforcement officers for the purpose of this Act.
- (2) The local authority must issue warrants in writing to enforcement officers appointed under this section specifying-

- (a) *the responsibilities and powers given to them; and*
- (b) *the infringement offences and other offences in relation to which they are appointed; and*
- (c) *the local authority areas in relation to which they may act; and*
- (d) *the conservation land in relation to which they may act (being only land in respect of which the Director-General has consented to officers exercising enforcement powers).*

Section 33 ‘Appointment of enforcement officers by Director General’ states;

- (1) *The Director-General may appoint persons to be enforcement officers for the purpose of this Act.*
- (2) *The Director-General must issue warrants in writing to enforcement officers appointed under this section specifying-*
 - (a) *The responsibilities and powers given to them; and*
 - (b) *The infringement offences and other offences in relation to which they are appointed; and*
 - (c) *The conservation land in relation to which they may act; and*
 - (d) *The local authority areas in relation to which they may act (being only areas in respect of which the relevant local authority has consented to officers exercising enforcement powers)*

2.3 Freedom Camping

Section 5(1) of the Act defines freedom camping as ‘*means to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200m of a motor vehicle accessible area or the low water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200m of a formal road or a Great Walks Track, using 1 or more of the following:*

- (a) *a tent or other temporary structure;*
- (b) *a caravan*
- (c) *a car, campervan, house truck, or other motor vehicle’*

2.5 Local Authority Area

Section 6 of the Act defines local authority area as-

- (a) *‘...an area of land-*
 - (i) *that is within the district or region of a local authority; and*
 - (ii) *that is controlled or managed by or on behalf of the local authority under any enactment; and*
- (b) *includes any part of an area of land referred to in paragraph (a); but*
- (c) *does not include an area of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) that is permanently covered by water.’*

2.6 Infringement Offence

- (1) Every person commits an offence who-
 - (a) *freedom camps in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in a bylaw made under section 22 that applies to the area’ or*
 - (b) *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)*
 - (c) *makes preparations to freedom camp in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in a bylaw made under [section 11](#) that applies to the area; or*
 - (d) *deposits waste, generated while freedom camping, in or on a local authority area other than into an appropriate waste receptacle; or*

- (e) *fails or refuses to leave a local authority area when required to do so by an enforcement officer acting under [section 36](#); or*

2.7 Prohibited area

Means camping is not permitted in an area where good reasons to exist to prohibit it, for example, damage to a local environment, or health and safety concerns.

3 Principles

- 3.1 Council welcomes responsible freedom campers to the Ruapehu District but acknowledges its obligation to protect the health and safety of residents and other visitors to those areas.
- 3.2 Council also takes it seriously its obligation to protect the area, and access to the area, of land it administers within its boundaries.
- 3.3 Council recognises that some restrictions are required to allow for safe and environmentally responsible freedom camping within the Ruapehu District.
- 3.4 The policy targets the following Council focus and community wellbeing outcomes; Improve the wellbeing and quality of life for our communities by:
- **Social-Safe, Health Communities**
 - Quality regulations services and infrastructure
 - Core infrastructure endeavours to keep pace with changing demand.
 - Excellent standards of safety and welfare are promoted and respected.
 - **Cultural- Vibrant and Diverse Living**
 - Working together with tangata whenua to achieve common goals.
 - **Environmental- Sustaining Beautiful Environments**
 - Our environment is accessible clean and our water, soil and air meets required standards.
 - **Economic- Thriving Economy**
 - Regulatory services and reliable infrastructure help the economy prosper.
 - **Strong Leadership and Advocacy**
 - Council is proactive, transparent and accountable.

4 Background

- 4.1 A local authority may make a bylaw to identify areas where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted (and identify any restrictions that apply). These prohibitions or restrictions can only be made if the local authority is satisfied that they are necessary to: (a) protect the area, (b) protect the health and safety of people visiting the area and (c) protect access to the area (Section 14 of the Litter Act 1979).
- 4.2 The current legislation on littering and the dumping of toilet waste is applicable to this policy. (Section 14 of the Litter Act 1979).
- 4.3 The current legislation on inconsiderate parking is applicable to this policy. (Schedule 2, Part 1 (2e) of the Land Transport Act 1962).

4.2 INFORMATION

- 4.2.1 Brochures on local freedom camping guidelines, maps and location of local amenities and other facilities are available at Council Service Centres and local i-Sites
- 4.2.2 Refer to the Department of Conservation website for public conservation land areas where freedom camping is prohibited within the Ruapehu District.
[Prohibited or restricted conservation areas: Freedom camping \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)

5 Policy Statement

- 5.1 Freedom camping is permitted in any local authority area unless restricted or prohibited. (Section 10 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (FCA)).
- 5.2 Freedom Camping is only permitted in certified, self-contained vehicles. Camping in tents, caravans (that are not self-contained), cars or other motor vehicles, or any other non-self-contained structure is only permitted at legal camping grounds.
- 5.3 The only exceptions to 5.1 are:
(a) The Ruatiti Domain, and
(b) Ōhura: the area adjacent to Tui Street between the Memorial Hall and the Mangaroa Stream
- 5.3.1 It is permissible to freedom camp in these places in tents and or non-self-contained vehicles.
- 5.4 Freedom camping is permitted on any local authority area, except land stated in Schedule 1. For a maximum of three night in any calendar month at any single location. This includes roadside parking spaces, public reserves, lakes and rivers.
- 5.5 All approved sites used for freedom camping must be left in a clean and tidy state.
- 5.6 An enforcement officer may require a person, who they believe on reasonable grounds is committing or has committed an offence, to leave the local authority area or conservative land concerned ([FCA, section 36](#)).
- 5.7 A person who commits an infringement offence ([FCA section 20](#)) is liable to a fee of \$200 (FCA, section 23(1)(b)).
- 5.8 Refer to the Department of Conservation website for public conservation land areas where freedom camping is prohibited within the Ruapehu District.

5.9 WASTE DISPOSAL

- 5.9.1 Toilet and grey water waste must be disposed of at a Council approved dump station site. (Refer to Schedule 2 for location of dump stations within the Ruapehu District).
- 5.9.2 All refuse must be disposed of at a waste transfer station in an approved Council rubbish bag. These bags can be purchased from any supermarket or Council Service Centre in the District. (Refer to Council's website for location of transfer stations and opening hours within the Ruapehu District ([Ruapehu Transfer Stations - Ruapehu District Council \(ruapehudc.govt.nz\)](#))).

- 5.9.3 All waste transfer stations have recycling facilities which will take the following materials free of charge:
- (a) Washed glass jars or bottles,
 - (b) Washed number 1 and 2 plastics,
 - (c) Washed food cans and aluminium cans/ bottle tops,
 - (d) Clean paper and cardboard

6 Related Documents

- 6.1 Local Government Act 2002
- 6.2 Resource Management Act 1991
- 6.3 Freedom Camping Act 2011
- 6.4 Litter Act 1979, Section 14
- 6.5 Land Transport Act 1962
- 6.6 The Ruapehu Bylaw
- 6.7 Ruapehu District Council Website – www.ruapehudc.govt.nz
- 6.8 Ruapehu District Council brochures
- 6.9 Department of Conservation Website – www.doc.govt.nz

7 Delegations

- 7.1 As per the Delegations Manual

Date	Description
13 March 2012	Policy first adopted
February 2018	Policy reviewed, see documents 661832, 674559 and 676993

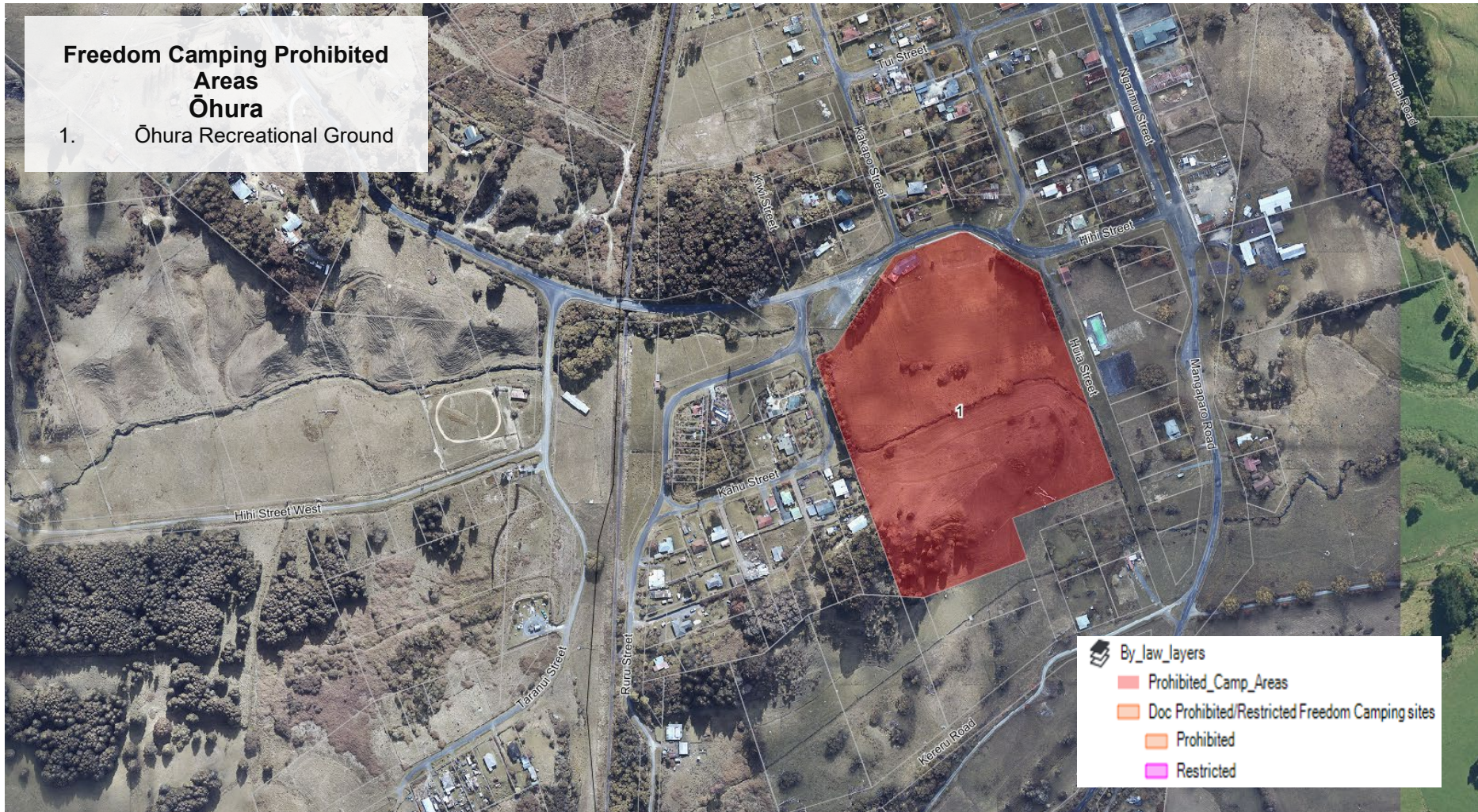
SCHEDULE 1

S1.1 PROHIBITED AREAS

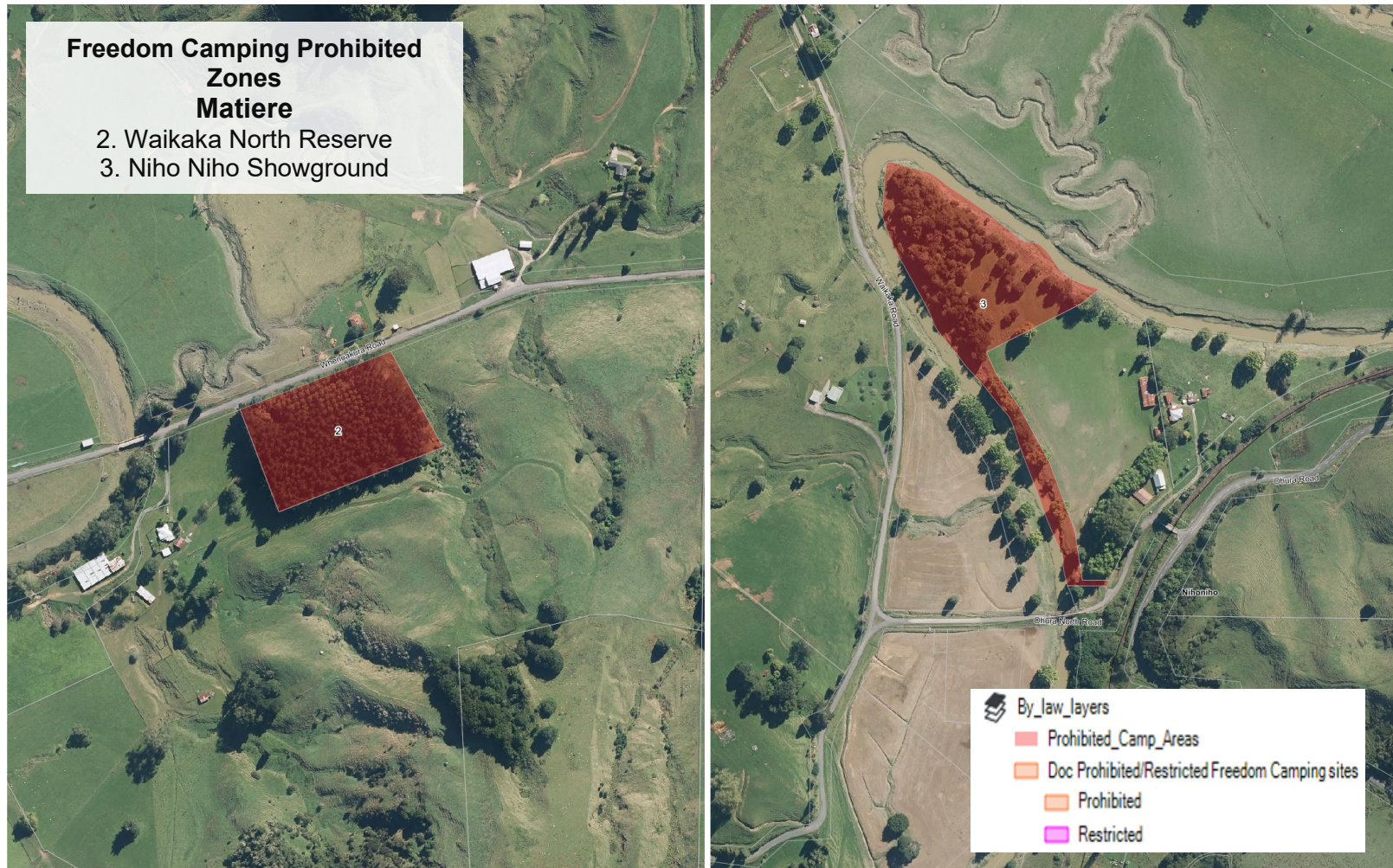
Freedom Camping is prohibited in all the domains, recreational, historic, scenic, and amenity reserves in Ruapehu District highlighted in the following maps. Freedom Camping is allowed in:

- (a) Ruatiti Domain, and
- (b) Ohura: the area adjacent to Tui Street between the Memorial Hall and the Mangaroa Stream

S1.2 Ōhura



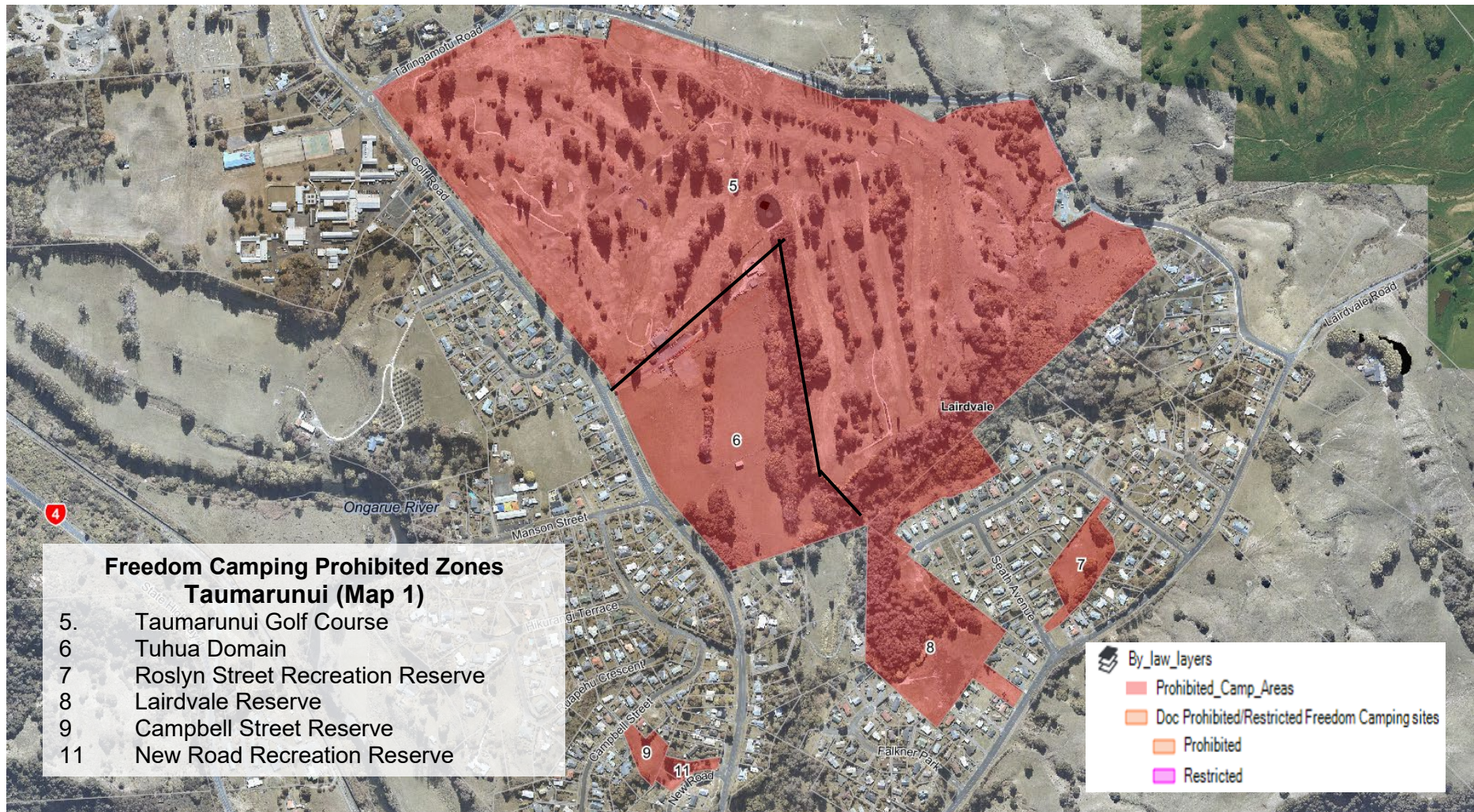
S1.3 Maitere



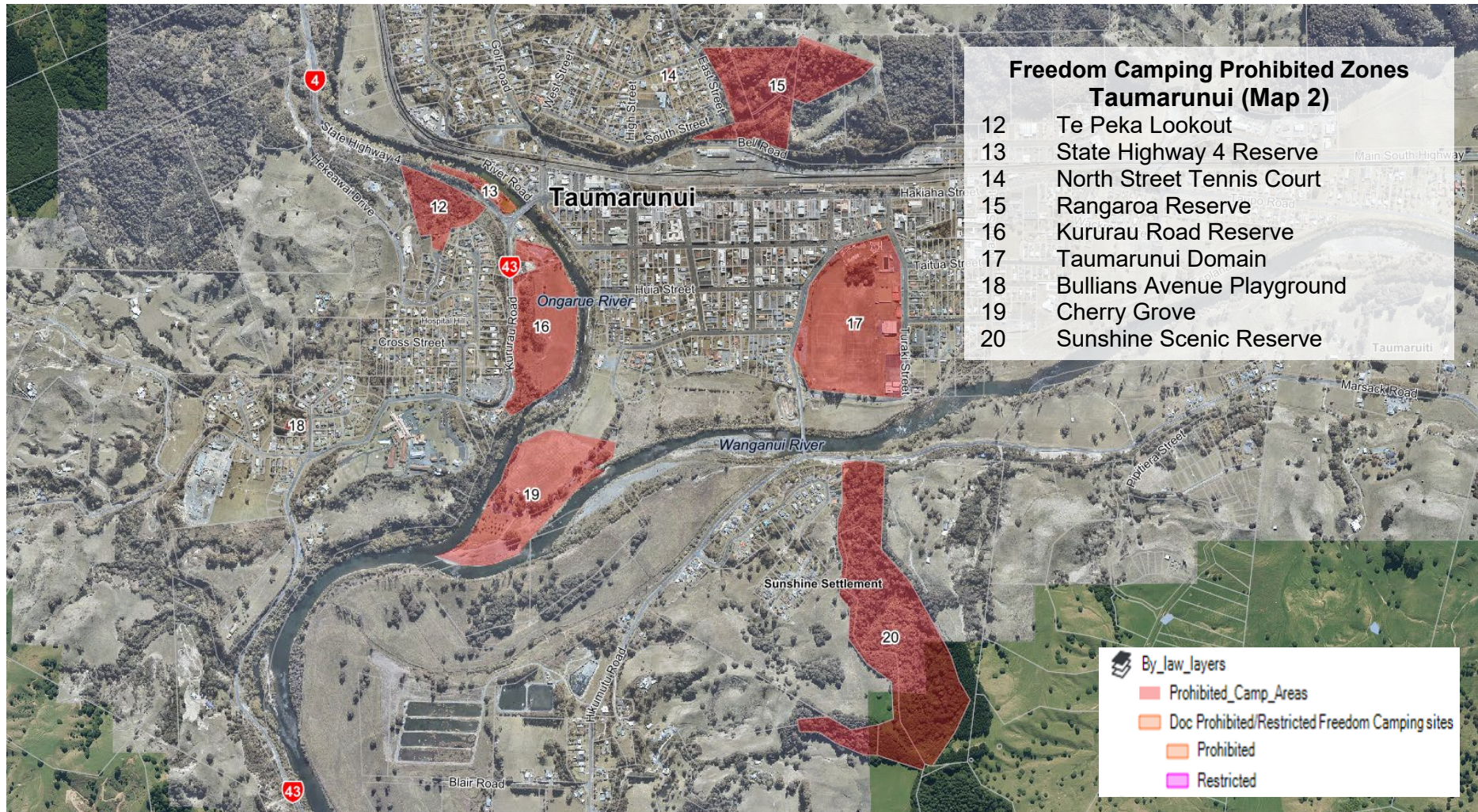
S1.4 Ōngarue



S1.5 Taumarunui (Map 1)



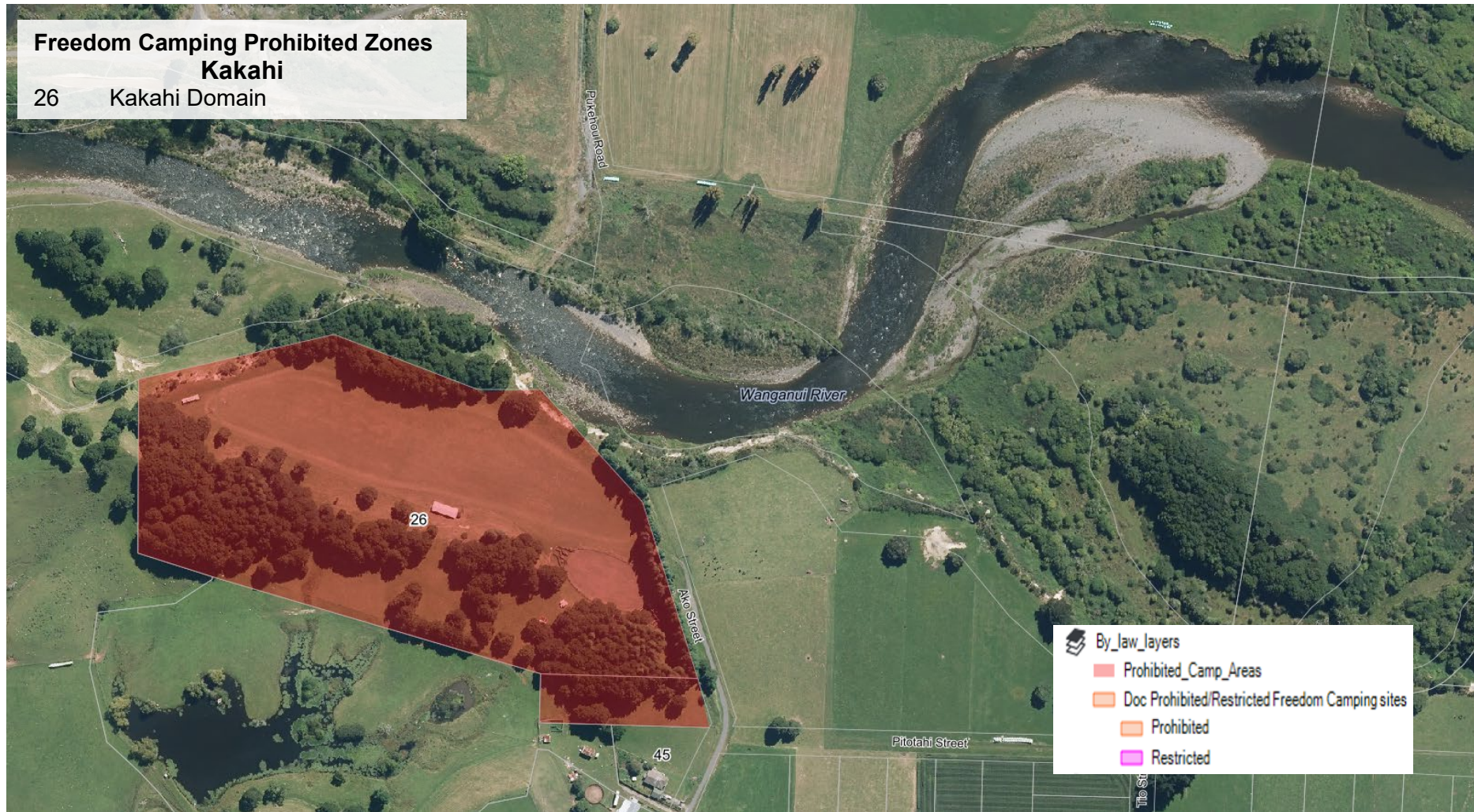
S1.6 Taumarunui (Map 2)



S1.7 Taumarunui (Map 3)



S1.8 Kakahi



S1.9 Raurimu



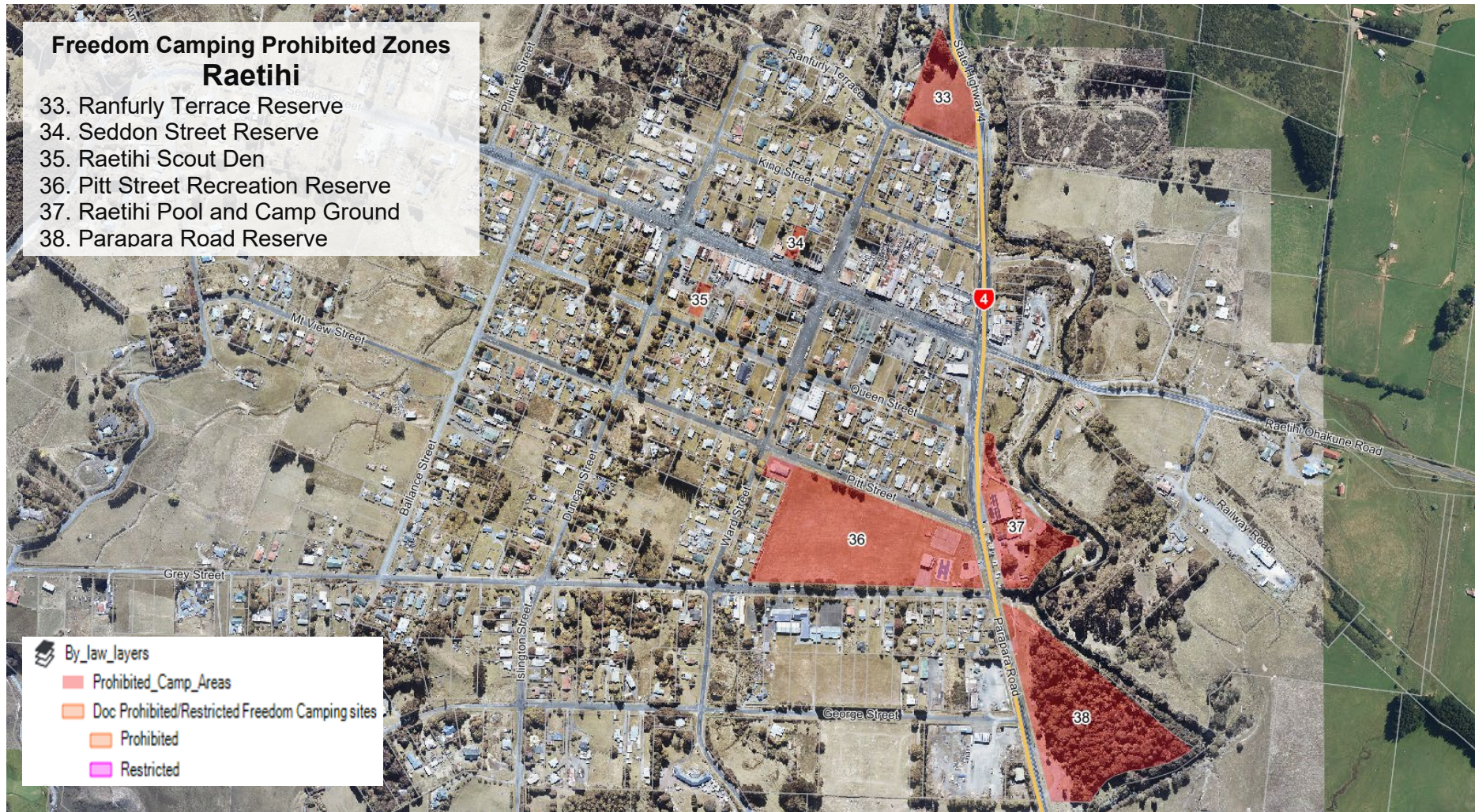
**Freedom Camping Prohibited Zones
Raurimu**

- 27 Raurimu Recreational Reserve
- 28 Raurimu Road Reserve 2
- 29 Raurimu Road Reserve 1
- 30 Domain Reserve

S1.10 Rangataua



S1.11 Raetihi



S1.12 Ohakune (Map 1)



S1.13 Ohakune(Map 2)



S1.14 Ohakune (Map 3)



S1.15 Tangiwai



SCHEDULE 2

S2.1 GREY WASTE AND TOILETING DUMP STATIONS AND REGISTERED CAMPING GROUNDS/CARAVAN PARKS

	Public Dump Stations (free)
Taumarunui Holiday Park State Highway 4 TAUMARUNUI	✓
Taumarunui Cosmopolitan Club Corner Katarina and Miriama Streets TAUMARUNUI	✓
Ohakune Top 10 Holiday Park 4 Moore Street OHAKUNE	
Ohakune Club 72 Goldfinch Ave OHAKUNE	✓
Raetihi Holiday Park 10 Parapara Road RAETIHI	✓ (\$5 for non-guest members)
Tongariro Holiday Park State Highway 47 TONGARIRO	
Whakapapa Holiday Park State Highway 48 NATIONAL PARK	✓ (\$5 for non-guest members)