



Notice of Meeting

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on **Wednesday 9 July 2025** commencing at **10:30am**.

Bryan Nicholson
Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Meeting Opening**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Reports**
- 3.1 Hearing of Submissions on Freedom Camping Bylaw and Tararua District Reserves Management Plan Consultations** **3**
- 4. Closure**



Report

Date : 1 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Allie Dunn
Manager - Democracy Services

Subject : **Hearing of Submissions on Freedom Camping Bylaw and Tararua District Reserves Management Plan Consultations**

Item No : **4.1**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 24 June 2025 concerning the Hearing of Submissions on Freedom Camping Bylaw and Tararua District Reserves Management Plan Consultations be received.*
- 1.2 *That the Tararua District Council provide direction to officers on matters to be considered at the meeting of Council scheduled for 30 July 2025 as follows:*

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2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 To provide the Tararua District Council with a copy of the submissions received in relation to both the Freedom Camping Bylaw consultation and the Tararua District Reserves Management Plan Consultation.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Hearing is to enable those submitters who wish to be heard to present their views and verbally interact with the Council, as required by Section 83(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 2002, and Section 41(6)(d) of the Reserves Act 1977.

3. Background

Freedom Camping Bylaw

- 3.1 The formal consultation period on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw opened on 19 May 2025 and closed on 20 June 2025.
- 3.2 A total of 30 submissions were received.
- 3.3 Of these 30 submissions, one submitter asked to present their views to Council in person.

Tararua District Reserves Management Plan

- 3.4 The formal consultation period on the draft Tararua District Reserves Management Plan opened on 14 April 2025 and closed on 20 June 2025.
- 3.5 A total of 12 submissions were received.
- 3.6 Of these 12 submissions, five submitters asked to present their views to Council in person.

4. Discussion and consideration of options

- 4.1 At its meeting held 26 March 2025, the Tararua District Council approved the draft Tararua District Reserves Management Plan for public consultation and also appointed a Hearing Panel consisting of Her Worship the Mayor and Councillors Gilmore, Johns, Wallace, Chase, Long and Wards to hear submissions and make recommendations to the Council on the extent to which objections and comments should be allowed or accepted, or disallowed or not accepted. It was noted that the final decision making on the Tararua District Reserves Management Plan would remain with the Council.
- 4.2 However, with consultation on the Freedom Camping Bylaw ending at the same time as the consultation on the Tararua District Reserves Management Plan, for the purpose of efficiency the Hearing of submissions on both consultations will be held at the same extraordinary meeting of Council that had been called to hear submissions on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- 4.3 Hearings are an opportunity for those who have provided feedback on the both the Tararua District Reserves Management Plan and the Freedom Camping Bylaw to present their views to Council in person, and for the Council to ask questions and seek clarification from submitters on the matters raised.
- 4.4 However, no options are considered, decisions made or discussions entered into during the hearings stage of the process.

- 4.5 The views presented to the Council via both written and verbal submissions need to be received by the Council with an open mind, and given due consideration when Council comes to the next step of the process.
- 4.6 At the completion of the hearing, the Council is asked to provide direction to officers on matters to be considered at the Council meeting on 30 July 2025, where matters raised in the submissions will be deliberated upon and given consideration.
- 4.7 Following the 30 July 2025 Council meeting, any changes to the proposed Tararua District Reserves Management Plan and changes to the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw agreed to by the Council will be made and the final versions of the Plan and the Bylaw brought to Council for adoption on 27 August 2025.

5. Statutory Requirements

Freedom Camping Bylaw

- 5.1 Under section 155(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 and pursuant to s11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, a bylaw assessed to be the most appropriate way of addressing perceived problems identified for freedom camping in Tararua district and was not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.
- 5.2 The Council used the special consultative procedure outlined in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 for consulting the community on its proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- 5.3 The requirements for any consultation under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 are as follows:

The Council must prepare and adopt a statement of proposal, and if it considers it necessary to enable public understanding of the proposal, a summary of the information contained in the statement of proposal.

The Council must ensure the following is publicly available:

- The statement of proposal;
- A description of how the Council will provide persons interested in the proposal an opportunity to present their views; and
- A statement of the period within which views on the proposal can be provided to the Council. This period can not be less than one month from the date the statement is issued.

Tararua District Reserves Management Plan

- 5.4 Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 sets out requirements for consultation on proposed Reserve Management Plans. These include:

- Giving public notice of intention to prepare a management plan for reserves under the Council's control;
- Inviting persons and organisations interested to provide suggestions on the proposed plan to the Council;
- Give full consideration to any suggestions provided through the above process in preparing the proposed management plan;
- Give public notice that the draft management plan's availability for inspection and seek submissions on the draft plan;
- Give notice in writing to all those that made suggestions through the preliminary notification process of the availability of the draft management plan for inspection and submissions;
- Provide an opportunity for all those that provided feedback on the draft management plan to present their feedback in person to the Council.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 A total of 12 submissions were received in response to consultation on Council's proposed Tararua District Reserves Management Plan, and 30 submissions in response to consultation Council's draft Freedom Camping Bylaw. A copy of all submissions received is appended to this report, and a schedule provided of those submitters who arranged to present their views in person at this hearing.
- 6.2 Members are asked to listen to the views presented and ask questions for clarification where needed.
- 6.3 At the completion of the hearing, the Council is asked to provide direction to officers on matters to be considered at the Council meeting scheduled for 30 July 2025, where matters raised in the submissions will be deliberated upon and given consideration.
- 6.4 Following the 30 July 2025 Council meeting, any changes to the proposed Tararua District Reserves Management Plan and changes to the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw agreed to by the Council will be made and the final versions of the Plan and the Bylaw brought to Council for adoption on 27 August 2025.

Attachments

1. [Hearing Schedule Freedom Camping and Reserve Management Plan Submissions 2025 Consultation](#)

Hearing Schedule

Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw and Reserve Management Plan Submissions

9 July 2025

Sub #	Consultation Matter	Submitter Details	Time	Page # Attachments
020	Freedom Camping Bylaw	Colleen and Warren Cox	10:40am	47
003	Reserve Management Plan	Dennis Wakely	10:50am	87
007	Reserve Management Plan	Mark Wheeler	11:00am	97
008	Reserve Management Plan	Pongaroa Domain Board	11:10am	100
009	Reserve Management Plan	Heather Monk	11:20am	105
011	Reserve Management Plan	Pongaroa the Way to Go	11:30am	115