

Camping in Public Places Policy

As amended: 13 December 2018

1. Policy Objective

The objective of the Far North District Council Camping in Public Places Policy is to:

- ensure visitors are aware of where they may camp in public places
- ensure visitors are safe
- prevent nuisance
- prevent damage to the environment and facilities.

2. Definitions

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER means any person authorized by the Council to carry out any of the duties provided for under this Policy and includes any Council Monitoring Officer.

FREEDOM CAMPING means, as defined in the Freedom Camping Act, to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200m of a motor vehicle accessible area or the mean low-water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200m of a formed 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.

Freedom camping does not include the following activities:

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

CAMPING means to use any vehicle, tent or other similar structure for the purposes of temporary personal accommodation, whether or not self contained, and whether or not it involves the use of the vehicle, tent or other structure for sleeping overnight. However, it shall not include temporary or short term parking of a vehicle customarily used for camping, or resting or sleeping in a caravan or motor vehicle to avoid driver fatigue.

SELF CONTAINED CAMPERVANS means any vehicle which is designed to be used for the purpose of overnight accommodation and includes caravans, motor homes, house buses, house trucks and any other vehicle which meets the provisions of NZS 5465:2001 (Self Containment for Motor Caravans and Caravans).

NON SELF-CONTAINED CAMPERS means any freedom campers who require access to public toilet facilities.

PUBLIC PLACE means every road, street, public highway, footpath, footway, court, alley, lane, access way, and thoroughfare of a public nature or open to or used by the public as of right, and every place of public resort or place to which the public have access.

RESERVES includes any open space, plantation, park, garden or ground set apart for public recreation or enjoyment, and any esplanade, foreshore or beach associated with any water way, lake or coastal area which is vested in or under the control of the Council.

3. Camping Facilities in the Far North District

The Far North District has a wide range of well-maintained commercial campgrounds, holiday parks and Department of Conservation campgrounds that cater to most camping interests and budgets throughout the year. For a safe and enjoyable camping experience the Far North District Council recommends campers use these facilities and book ahead (over the summer months) so that they can reserve a site for the duration of their stay.

The Council provides some sites for temporary camping in public places (refer Schedule 1).

Details on campground facilities in the Far North may be obtained from the Far North District's i-SITE visitor information centres, or from a copy of the Far North District Camping brochure which is available at Council service centres.

4. Conditions for Camping at Council Camping Sites

Camping is permitted in sites listed in Schedule 1 of this Policy that have been signposted for such purposes and every person must abide by the following additional conditions:

- Only self contained campervans can camp in locations that have no public toilet. Non-self contained vehicles are allowed only at locations that have a public toilet.
- Proof of compliance with NZS 5465:2001 (Self Containment for Motor Caravans and Caravans) must be clearly visible.
- Camping for longer than one night at the same location will require written permission from the Council.
- Respect our environment and remove all rubbish, solid and liquid waste from the freedom camping site. Rubbish, solid and liquid waste must be disposed of at approved rubbish transfer sites and dump stations (see Appendix B for details of their location).
- Fires are not permitted.
- Consider the environment at all times. No person shall damage, deface, disturb or remove public and private property, or local flora and fauna.
- Consider local residents. Every person must keep language and noise to a reasonable standard and volume, and tidy up when they leave.
- Any person who fails to abide by the conditions of this Policy must immediately vacate the camping site at the request of an Enforcement Officer.

A failure to abide by any of the above conditions constitutes a breach of the Camping Policy and, depending on the nature of the breach, offenders could be subject to one or more of the actions outlined in the Enforcement section of this Policy.

5. Enforcement

The Council will monitor camping in reserves and public places regularly to ensure that campers are complying with their conditions of use and that no unauthorised camping is occurring in public places.

1. If a camper does not comply with the conditions of this Policy or any other enactment, the Council may, in the first instance:
 - i. verbally notify the camper of the issue; or
 - ii. request the camper remove their vehicle and/or camping equipment; or
 - iii. issue an infringement notice; or
2. If the problem persists, the Council will consider prosecution and/or:
 - i. refuse the offending party any further opportunity to camp in public places in the District; or
 - ii. clamp, seize, remove or impound any non-compliant vehicle or property.

Depending on the location, nature or extent of any breach of the conditions of this Policy, non-compliance could result in:

1. a Parking Infringement Fine of \$60 for parking without due care, or without reasonable consideration, under rule 6.1 of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004, or under the Parking and Traffic Control Bylaw 2010; or
2. a Litter Infringement Fine of up to \$400 under the Litter Infringement Policy 2017; or
3. action under the Reserves Act 1977; or
4. an injunction under section 162 of the Local Government Act 2002; or
5. being liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 under section 242 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Appendix A

Schedule 1

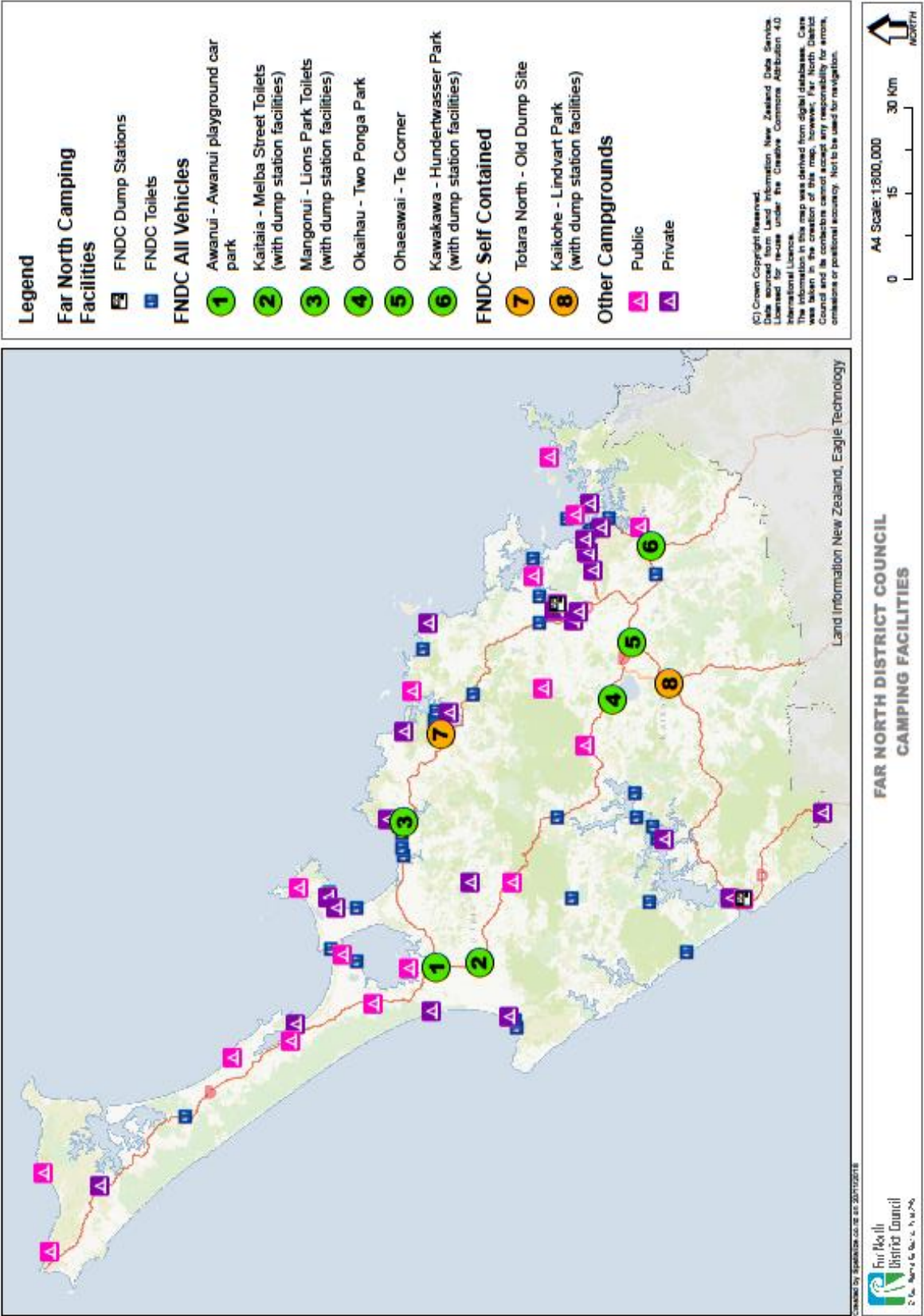
Council Approved Camping Locations on Council-Owned Land

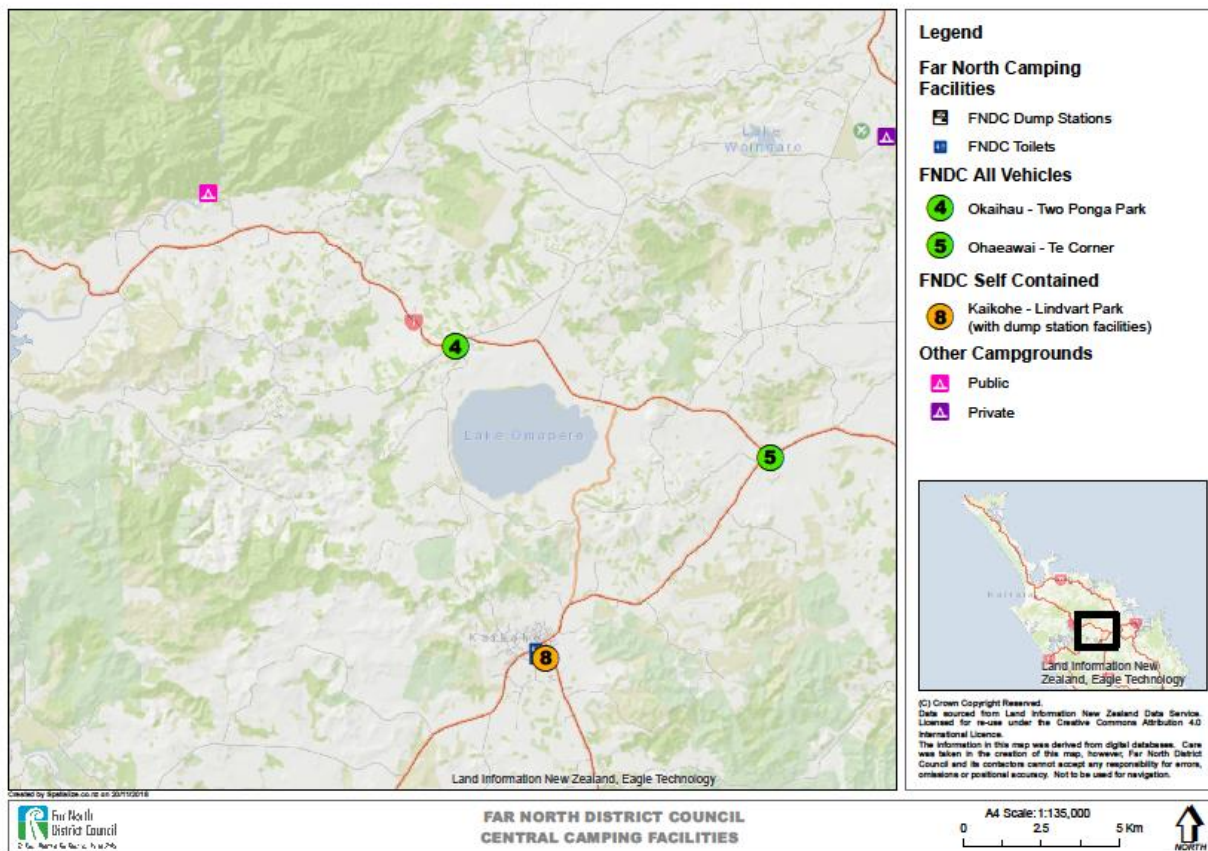
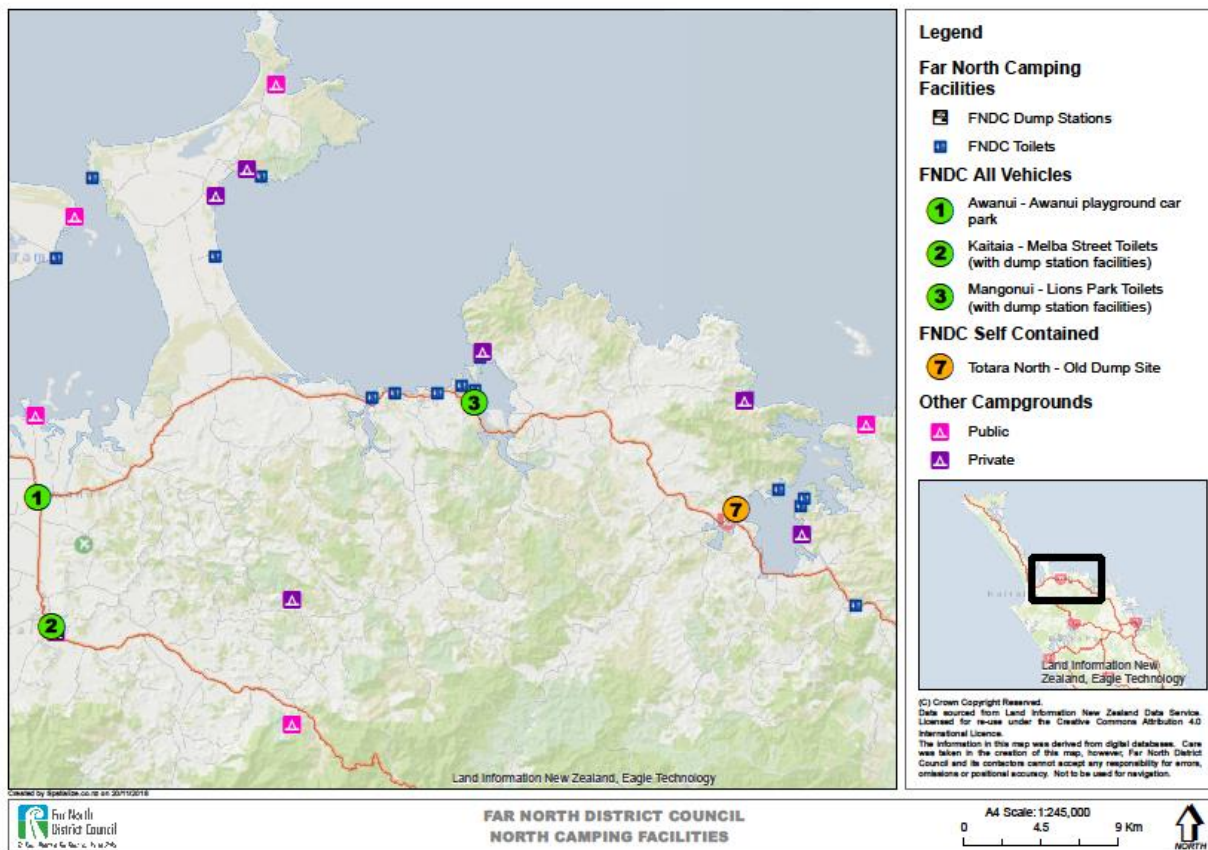
Maximum parking for 4 freedom camping vehicles at any one time in any one location.

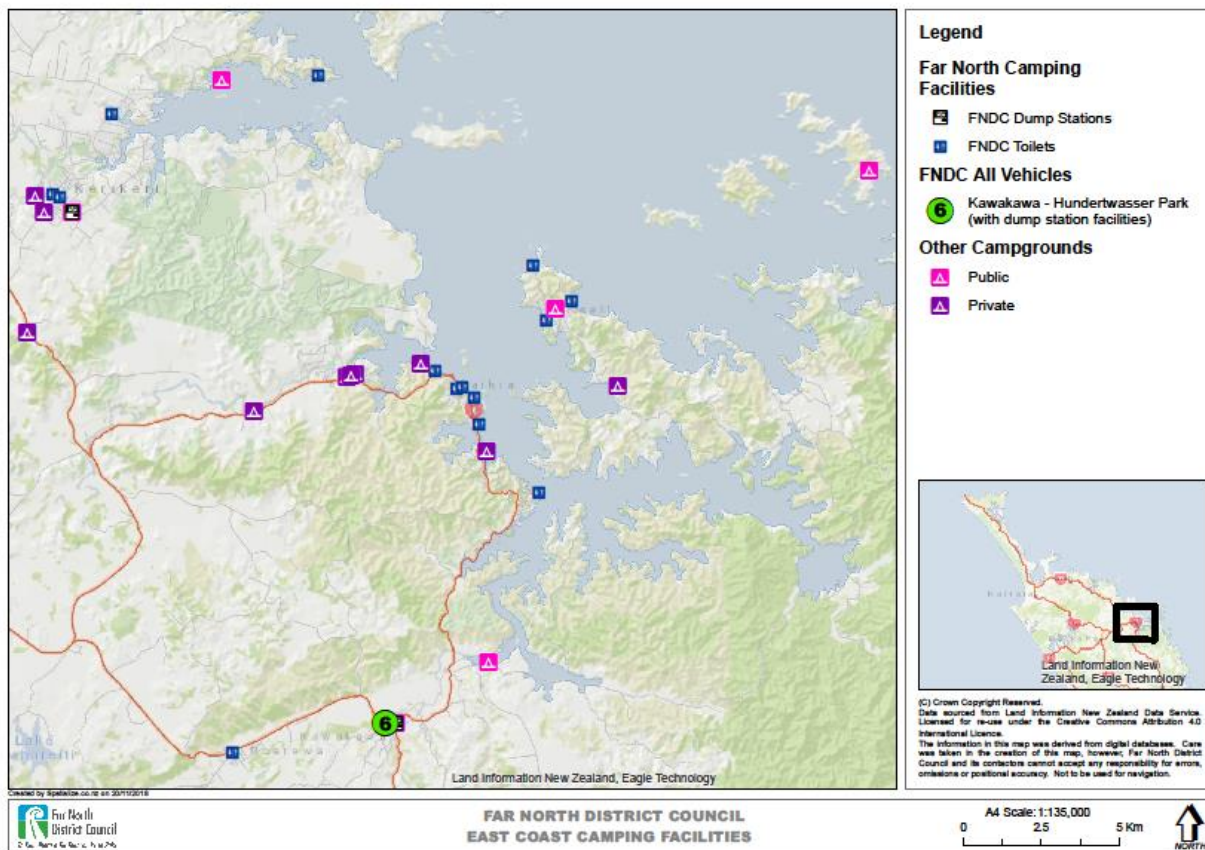
Maximum 24 hour time limit for each vehicle

No.	Location	Camping restriction
1	Awanui playground carpark	7pm to 7am only
2	Melba Street public toilets rear carpark	7pm to 7am only
3	Hundertwasser Car Park	
4	Lindvart Park, Kaikohe	Self contained only
5	Mangonui Lions Park toilets	
6	Te Corner, Ohaeawai	
7	Totara North, old dump site	Self contained only
8	Two Ponga Park, Okaihau	

Map of Schedule 1 Approved Public Camping sites







Appendix B

Public Waste Dump Stations in the Far North District

Waiomio Street, Kawakawa

Recreation Road, Kaikohe

Cobham Road, Kerikeri

State Highway 12, Omapere – opposite Opononi Area School

Beach Road, Mangonui 400m off State Highway 10

State Highway 1/Matthews Ave, Kaitaia – behind Te Ahu complex

Rubbish Transfer Sites

Refuse Station	Area of Service and Location
Ahipara	2km up Sandhills Road (beside Ahipara Landfill)
Awanui	Off SH1 (North); 300m north of Awanui (beside Rugby Club)
Herekino	2km north of Herekino on Kaitaia-Awaroa Road
Houhora	Off SH1 (North) 1km south of Houhora; 1km north of Pukenui
Kaikohe	Waste Station Resource Recovery Centre, Station Rd, Kaikohe
Kaitaia	500 metres up Church Road (beside rugby grounds)
Kohukohu	Kohukohu Road - Just past Tauteihiihi Road - Kohukohu
Opononi	Baker Road - behind bowling club midway between Opononi and Omapere
Panguru	1km south of Panguru on West Coast Road
Russell	On Florance Ave approximately 2km from Russell
Taipa	On the corner of Paranui Road and Oruru Road (3km south of Taipa)
Te Kao	Off SH1 (North); East Coast Roadway (behind Marae) Te Kao
Whangae	3km south of Opuia on SH11
Whatuwhiwhi	1km south of Whatuwhiwhi off Inland Road
Whitehills	500m south of the Matauri Bay turn-off SH10

Please ring 0800-920 029 for hours of operation.