01 May 2026

Mayor John Glover
Queenstown Lakes District Council
Private Bag 50072
Queenstown

Dear Mayor Glover

Assessment of Reserves Act land for freedom camping

Further to our meeting on 30 March 2026, we have reviewed the recording and supporting material from the April freedom camping workshop. We would appreciate confirmation of the next steps the Council intends to take in relation to the consideration of Reserves Act land for freedom camping.

While staff briefly indicated that the potential use of reserve land may be explored in the Council's 2026/27 financial year, this was not reflected in the workshop minutes and does not appear to amount to a firm commitment or defined programme of work. As you will recall, the NZMCA has consistently expressed the view that revisiting the exclusion of reserve land from the 2025 bylaw-making process is both essential and urgent if the Council is to alleviate pressure on existing sites and address the issues experienced this season.

We understand a report on the recent freedom camping season is due later this month for discussion at the Council meeting on 23 June 2026. In that context, the NZMCA now formally seeks assurance that at this June meeting, the Council will instruct staff to undertake a genuine and timely assessment of Reserves Act land for freedom camping, including consideration of whether such land should be incorporated within the existing bylaw framework or in a manner similar to the Red Bridge site.

We emphasise that NZMCA's willingness to work constructively to avoid further litigation if possible and using the current bylaw settings is a significant compromise on our interpretation of the Freedom Camping Act and the Reserves Act, and on our ongoing concerns regarding the lawfulness of the 2025 bylaw decision-making process.

Accordingly, while NZMCA is prepared to await the outcome of the Council's June deliberations, we formally reserve our position in relation to the legality of the 2025 bylaw and the processes followed to adopt it.

4 Graham Road Takanini 2112
PO Box 72147 Papakura 2244
E enquiries@nzmca.org.nz

P 09 298 5466
F 09 298 5646
www.nzmca.org.nz

In the absence of a clear and timely commitment at the June meeting to progress an assessment of Reserves Act land, the NZMCA will decide whether it has to initiate further court proceedings to test the lawfulness of the Council's decision-making, notwithstanding our preference to avoid additional litigation if possible.

We trust you will appreciate that we see the current period as a final opportunity to fashion a resolution that avoids further litigation and we continue to be available to work with you and Council staff on how to achieve this in the lead up to the Council's decisions in late June 2026.

Yours faithfully,
New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.



Bruce Lochore
CEO
bruce@nzmca.org.nz

Copies sent to: michelle.morss@qldc.govt.nz (CEO)