



MACKENZIE

District Council



All About
Freedom
Camping



We warmly welcome you to the Mackenzie District and hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable stay.

Our district is one of the world's most beautiful places.

We want to keep it that way. Please respect our region so that we can preserve and protect our community and environment for today and for future generations.

If you're planning on freedom camping, here's a few tips to help you enjoy your stay.

Thank you for visiting and have a fantastic time.





Where can I freedom camp?

You can responsibly freedom camp on most Council-controlled land. However, there are a few places on Council land where freedom camping is restricted or not allowed.



You must have a fully self-contained vehicle to freedom camp in our district.

If you don't, we ask that you stay in a designated campsite with facilities. This is to protect our community and environment. There's a list of designated campsites on the back of this brochure.

Restricted areas

These are areas where you can freedom camp but where there are some restrictions.

These restricted areas are at Bennetts Road, Hays Road and Opuha Gorge Road – all at Lake Opuha. The west end of Lake Ruataniwha is also a restricted area.

To camp in any of these places:

- You must have a fully self-contained vehicle.
- You cannot camp within 20 metres of the lakeshore.
- You cannot stay more than three consecutive nights.
- You cannot camp at these places from 23 December until the second Monday in January (inclusive).

Where can't I freedom camp?



Freedom camping isn't allowed in the areas listed below or on Council-controlled land within these areas, including on roads and reserves.

Tekapo township



Twizel commercial centre



Lake Ruataniwha reserve

(except in the designated area outlined)



What is a self-contained vehicle?

A self-contained vehicle has been designed and built for the purpose of camping. The vehicle's facilities meet all of your bathroom and toilet needs for a minimum of three days in a row, without the need for external services, or the need to discharge waste in public facilities or into the environment. The vehicle complies with NZ standards and has a toilet facility that is readily usable.

Self-contained camping doesn't include:

- The need to use portable toilets that aren't located in a fully private facility.
- Undertaking toileting and bathroom needs in the natural environment.

We want to protect our community and our environment. If you have a vehicle that isn't self-contained, we ask that you stay in a designated camping ground.

Remember, freedom campers must leave nothing, take all of their waste with them and mustn't do any damage to the area they use.

Please be a responsible freedom camper. If you camp in areas where freedom camping isn't allowed, don't have a fully self-contained vehicle, or don't follow our other rules, you may have to pay a fine or be asked to move on.

Please enjoy our
beautiful region
and look after it well.



Need to stay in a designated camping ground?

Fairlie Holiday Park	03 685 8375
Lake Tekapo Motels and Holiday Park	0800 853 853
Twizel Holiday Park	03 435 0507
Lake Ruataniwha Holiday Park and Motels	03 435 0613

There are also camping sites at Lake Alexandrina south end and at the Lake McGregor/Lake Alexandrina outlet.



CamperMate is a free New Zealand travel app that helps freedom campers find essential services nearby.

Not sure?

If you have any questions about freedom camping, please contact us.



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Remember in an emergency always dial 111