



Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 **I Ture ā-Rohe mō te Noho Puni Korehere 2025**

Queenstown Lakes District Council

Date of making: date to be inserted
Commencement: date to be inserted

This bylaw is adopted pursuant to section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

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Part 1 – Preliminary

1 Title and Commencement

- 1.1 This bylaw is the “Queenstown Lakes District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 Ture ā-Rohe mō te Noho Puni Korehere 2025”.
- 1.2 This bylaw comes into force on date to be inserted

2 Area within which bylaw applies

- 2.1 This bylaw applies to the Queenstown Lakes District.

3 Purpose

- 3.1 The purpose of this bylaw is to prohibit or restrict freedom camping on land identified at clause 2 to:
 - (a) protect the area;
 - (b) protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area; and
 - (c) protect access to the area.
- 3.2 This bylaw also provides for other controls in relation to freedom camping, which apply to land within the Queenstown Lakes District.

4 Declaration that New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) land is local authority area

- 4.1 The areas of NZTA land identified in Schedule 1A or Schedule 2 are declared a local authority area for the purpose of the Act, which means they are local authority areas for the purpose of this Bylaw and are regulated as such under this Bylaw.

5 Bylaw does not apply to local authority land that is a reserve

- 5.1 This bylaw does not apply to any local authority area that is a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Decisions on whether to allow or restrict camping, including freedom camping, on any reserve will be made in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977

6 Interpretation

- 6.1 In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires,-

Act means the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Certificate of self-containment (has the same definition as set out in section 4 of the Act) means a certificate of self-containment issued under section 87U of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006.

Chief Executive means the Chief Executive of the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Council means the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Enforcement officer means a person appointed to be an enforcement officer by the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Freedom camp or freedom camping (has the same definition as set out in section 5 of the Act) means

- (1) In this Act, freedom camp means to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200 m of an area accessible by motor vehicle or within 200 m of the mean low-water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200 m of a formed road or a Great Walks Track, using either or both of the following:
 - (a) a tent or other temporary structure;
 - (b) a motor vehicle.
- (2) In this Act, 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 motor vehicle to avoid driver fatigue.
- (2A) In this Act, a person is not freedom camping if the person—
 - (a) is a person other than a person who is in New Zealand on the basis of a visitor visa (within the meaning of the immigration instructions); and
 - (b) is unable to live in appropriate residential accommodation; and
 - (c) as a consequence of that inability, is living in either or both of the following:
 - (i) a tent or other temporary structure;
 - (ii) a motor vehicle.

Local authority area (has the same definition as set out in section 6 of the Act) means

- (1) In this Act, local authority area—

- (a) means an area of land—
 - (i) that is within the district or region of a local authority; and
 - (ii) that is—
 - (A) controlled or managed by or on behalf of the local authority under any enactment; or
 - (B) an area of NZTA land declared to be a local authority area in accordance with a bylaw made under section 10A; 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.

Motor vehicle (has the same definition as set out in section 6 of the Act) means

motor vehicle means each of the following:

- (a) a motor vehicle within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Land Transport Act 1998;
- (b) a unit used for camping that is not itself a vehicle but is capable of being—
 - (i) transported by means of being loaded onto a vehicle; and
 - (ii) used for camping whether or not it is loaded onto a vehicle

Road has the same meaning as section 315 of the Local Government Act 1974.

Self-contained (has the same definition as set out in section 4 of the Act) means, in relation to a motor vehicle, that the vehicle has a valid certificate of self-containment issued in accordance with section 87U(3)(d) of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006 (but see subpart 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1AA for the meaning of self-contained during the transitional period)

Person (has the meaning given in the Legislation Act 2019) means a corporation sole, a body corporate, and an unincorporated body.

- 6.2 Words or phrases used in this Bylaw shall have the same meanings as defined in the Act.
- 6.3 Any explanatory notes and attachments are for information purposes, do not form part of this Bylaw, and may be made, amended and revoked without any formality.
- 6.4 The Legislation Act 2019 applies to this bylaw.

Part 2 – Controls on freedom camping

7 Freedom camping is prohibited in certain circumstances

- 7.1 No person may freedom camp in any local authority area in any tent or temporary structure.
- 7.2 No person may freedom camp in any local authority area that is not marked as a restricted area in Schedule 1A or Schedule 1B of this bylaw. Schedule 2 of this Bylaw identifies areas in which freedom camping is prohibited.
- 7.3 No person may freedom camp in any local authority area where freedom camping has been temporarily prohibited under Part 3.

8 Freedom camping is restricted in certain circumstances

- 8.1 Any person may freedom camp in a local authority area marked as restricted in Schedule 1A or Schedule 1B of this bylaw and only if using a self-contained motor vehicle.
- 8.2 Any person freedom camping in a local authority area (including NZTA land that has been declared local authority area for the purposes of the Act and this bylaw) marked as restricted in Schedule 1A of this bylaw must comply at all times with the conditions specified for that area in Schedule 1A.
- 8.3 Any person freedom camping in a local authority area marked as restricted in Schedule 1B of this bylaw must comply at all times with the following conditions:
 - (a) use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
 - (b) ensure that the side or part of the motor vehicle closest to the road (that is the carriageway) is located a minimum of 5 metres from the nearest edge of the road hard shoulder (where provided) or edge of seal (where no hard shoulder) at all times;
 - (c) ensure that the motor vehicle is positioned in a location to ensure any other person can stop their motor vehicle in the immediate area at all times for any other purpose (i.e. other than for freedom camping);
 - (d) ensure that the motor vehicle is only positioned on a formed gravel or sealed surface;
 - (e) ensure any camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within 2 metres of the motor vehicle at all times, on a side of the vehicle away from the carriageway;

- (f) not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any location within 500 metres of a location where the person has previously freedom camped;
- (g) not leave any waste;
- (h) not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Part 3 – Temporary changes to restricted freedom camping areas

9 Council may temporarily prohibit, restrict or change conditions in any restricted freedom camping area

9.1 The Chief Executive of the Council may temporarily prohibit, restrict or change the conditions in any restricted freedom camping area or part of any local authority area for one or more of the following purposes:

- (a) to protect the area.
- (b) to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area.
- (c) to protect access to the area.

9.2 Notice will be given of any temporary prohibition, restriction or change of conditions in any restricted freedom camping area under clause 9.1, in any manner the Chief Executive considers is appropriate to the reason for the action taken under clause 9.1.

Explanatory note: Notice given may include any of the following: a sign erected in the area; and/or advertising on the Council's website, social media or on the radio; and/or a public notice in the newspaper.

Part 4 – Discretionary consent to freedom camp

10 Consent to temporarily freedom camp in an area in which freedom camping is otherwise prohibited or restricted

10.1 Any person may apply in writing to the Chief Executive of the Council for consent to temporarily freedom camp in any local authority area in which freedom camping is prohibited or restricted, for a one off or community event.

Explanatory note: The type of events that may be applied for may include, but are not limited to: scout and guide events, sporting and club events, marae-related events, community and school events.

10.2 Any application under clause 10.1 must:

- (a) be made using the required form;
 - (b) provide sufficient detail about the event, including: the proposed location, intended dates of stay, proposed duration of freedom camping, number of people attending the event, method of freedom camping, and information about how human and other waste from the event will be managed; and
 - (c) be made at least 20 working days before commencement of the event.
- 10.3 The Chief Executive has discretion in relation to an application under clause 10.1 to:
 - (a) refuse the application; or
 - (b) approve the application; or
 - (c) approve the application with terms and conditions.
- 10.4 If the Chief Executive is satisfied that the application would not be contrary to the purpose of this Bylaw, the application approved under clause 10.3(c) may include such terms and conditions as the Chief Executive considered necessary to:
 - (a) protect the area;
 - (b) protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area;
 - (c) protect access to the area.
- 10.5 No approval under clause 10.3(b) or (c) has effect unless before the commencement of the activity a notice is given in any manner the Chief Executive considers is appropriate which specifies the period of the activity, its location, details of any terms and conditions, and details of a supervising person or organisation.

Explanatory note: Notice given may include any of the following: a sign erected in the area; and/or advertising on the Council's website, social media or on the radio; and/or a public notice in the newspaper.
- 10.6 No approval can be made for:
 - (a) a contravention of this bylaw that has already occurred;
 - (b) an activity that has prohibited activity status within any district plan rule having legal effect in the District;
 - (c) if it would authorise something that is or would be contrary to any other enactment or regulations.

- 10.7 The Chief Executive may revoke any approval under clause 10.3(b) or (c) immediately where there is reason to believe that the activity may not protect the area, protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or protect access to the area.
- 10.8 The Chief Executive may prescribe any fees associated with applications for discretionary consent to freedom camp.
- 10.9 The Chief Executive can recover all such actual and reasonable fees and expenses incurred by the processing of, and notification of, any such application, including any necessary monitoring of the activity.
- 10.10 The applicant may request in writing for Council to review decisions under clause 10.3 to:
- (a) refuse the application under clause 10.3(a); or
 - (b) approve the application with terms and conditions under clause 10.3(c); or
 - (c) revoke any approval under clause 10.7.
- 10.11 In determining any review under clause 10.10, the Council may decide to:
- (a) confirm its original decision; or
 - (b) amend or remove the terms and conditions imposed on any approved application; or
 - (c) issue a new approval.

Part 5 – General provisions

11 Relationship of Bylaw to Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

- 11.1 This bylaw does not limit or affect nohoanga entitlements granted under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

12 Delegation

- 12.1 Any of the various powers and functions of the Council as detailed and set out in this bylaw may be delegated by it to its Chief Executive, and sub-delegated by the Chief Executive to any other Officer of the Council.

13 Enforcement

- 13.1 Council may use its powers under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 to enforce this Bylaw.

14 Offences and Penalties

- 14.1 Every person who contravenes this bylaw commits an offence.
- 14.2 Every person who commits an offence against this bylaw is liable to the penalty imposed under the Act.

Explanatory note A: Sections 20(1) and 20C of the Act specify the infringement offences applicable to local authority areas, and include that every person commits an infringement offence who:

- a. freedom camps in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction specified in this bylaw that applies to the area; or*
- b. makes preparations to freedom camp in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this bylaw that applies to the area.*

Explanatory note: The Freedom Camping (Penalties for Infringement Offences) Regulations 2023 sets out the infringement fees for breaches of bylaws made under the Act, and the maximum fine that can be imposed by a court. The infringement fee is \$400. The Act and Regulations set out a range of other offences and infringement fees, ranging from \$200 to \$800.

15 Savings

- 15.1 Any permission, consent, agreement or any other act of authority which originated under the Queenstown Lakes District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021, or which was continued by that bylaw and which is still in force at the commencement of this bylaw continues to have full force and effect for the purpose of this bylaw

Schedule 1A – Restricted freedom camping areas – specific locations

Boundary Street Carpark, Queenstown

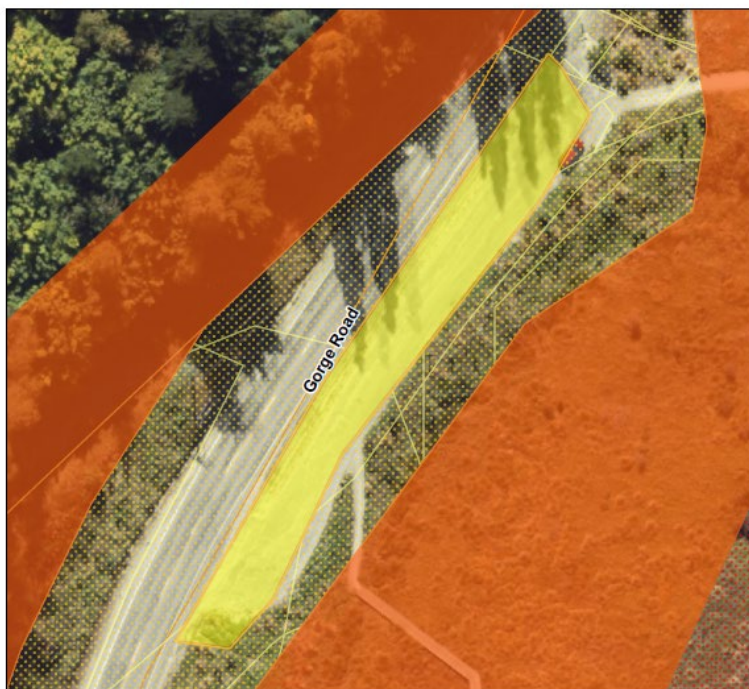


- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area under the Reserves Act 1977

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 15 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 8:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Gorge Road Carpark, Queenstown



- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area under the Reserves Act 1977
- Restricted freedom camping area: Rural Roads

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 2 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 7:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Gray Street Carpark, Frankton

- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area under the Reserves Act 1977

A person freedom camping in this location must:

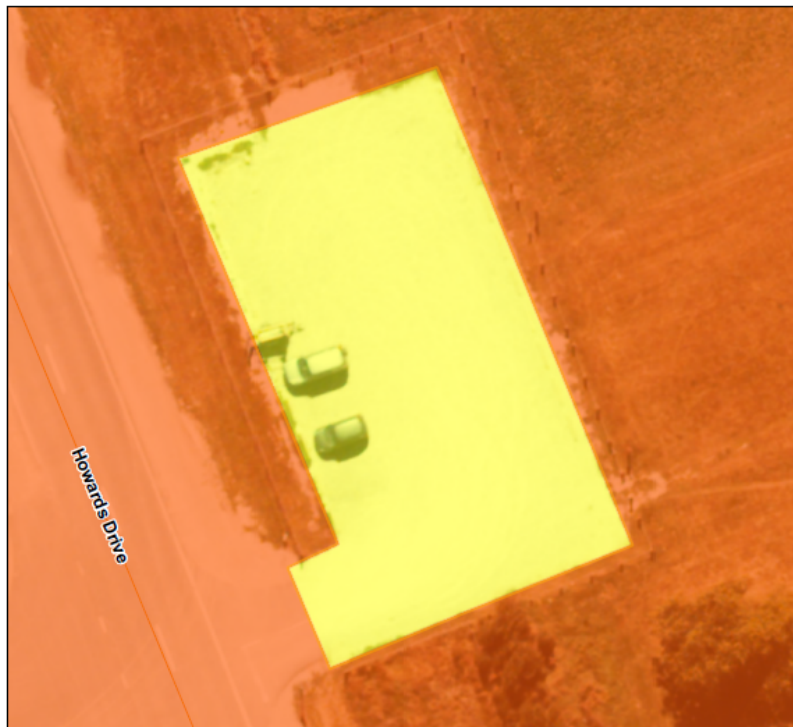
1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 10 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 7:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.


Queenstown Events Centre Carpark, Frankton - section


- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 9 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 8:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 7:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Howards Drive Carpark, Lake Hayes


 Restricted freedom camping area


 Prohibited freedom camping area


A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 3 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 7:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Flint Street Carpark, Arrowtown

 Restricted freedom camping area

 Prohibited freedom camping area

 Public toilet

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 5 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 8:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Glenorchy Domain Carpark, Glenorchy



- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area under the Reserves Act 1977
- Public toilet

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 3 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 7:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Wānaka Recreation Centre Carpark, Wānaka



- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 18 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 8:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 7:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Beacon Point Road Carpark, Wānaka

- Restricted freedom camping area
- Restricted freedom camping area: Rural Roads

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 5 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 8:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Kingston Road/State Highway 6 Carpark

- Restricted freedom camping area
- Public toilet

The maximum number of certified self-contained motor vehicles in this location must not exceed 50.

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. ensure any camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within 2 metres of the motor vehicle at all times;
3. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return within a 30 day period;
4. not leave any waste;
5. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Camp Hill Road Carpark, Hāwea

- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area
- Restricted freedom camping area: Rural Roads

The maximum number of certified self-contained motor vehicles in this location must not exceed 15.

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. ensure any camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within 2 metres of the motor vehicle at all times;
3. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return within a 30 day period;
4. not leave any waste;
5. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Industrial Place Carpark Queenstown - section

- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area under the Reserves Act 1977
- Restricted freedom camping area: Rural Roads

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 6 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 7:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Gibbston Highway/State Highway 6 Carpark, Gibbston

- Restricted freedom camping area
- Restricted freedom camping area: Rural Roads

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 2 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 8:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

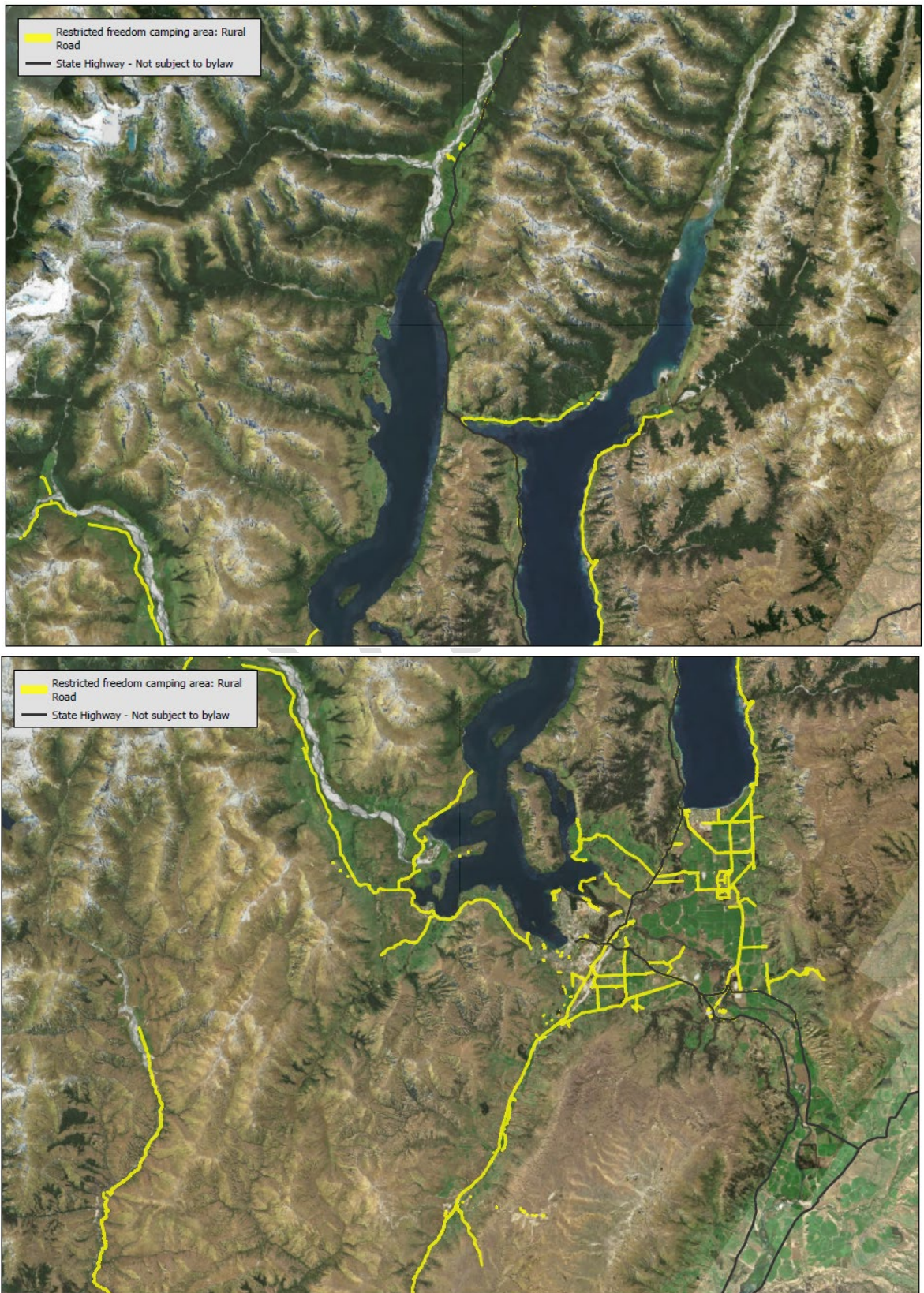
Lakeview Carpark, Queenstown

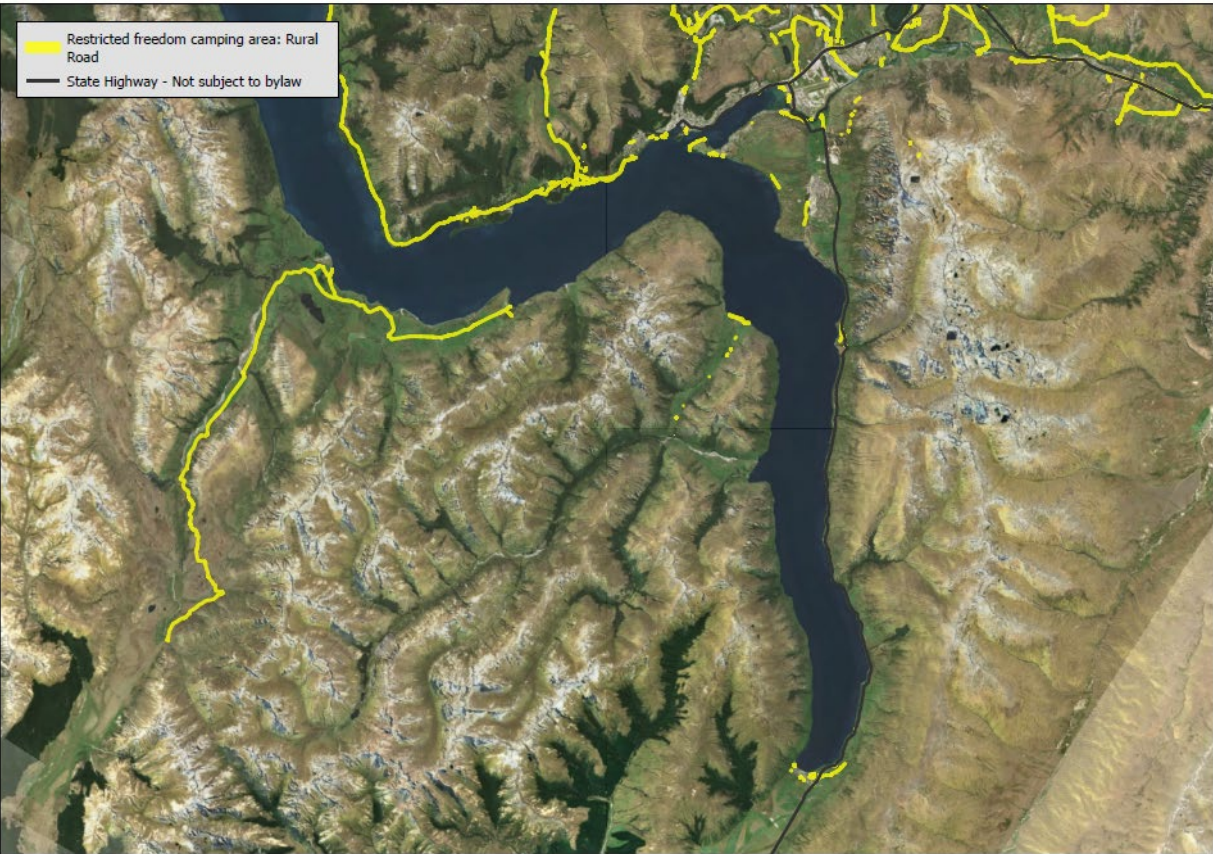
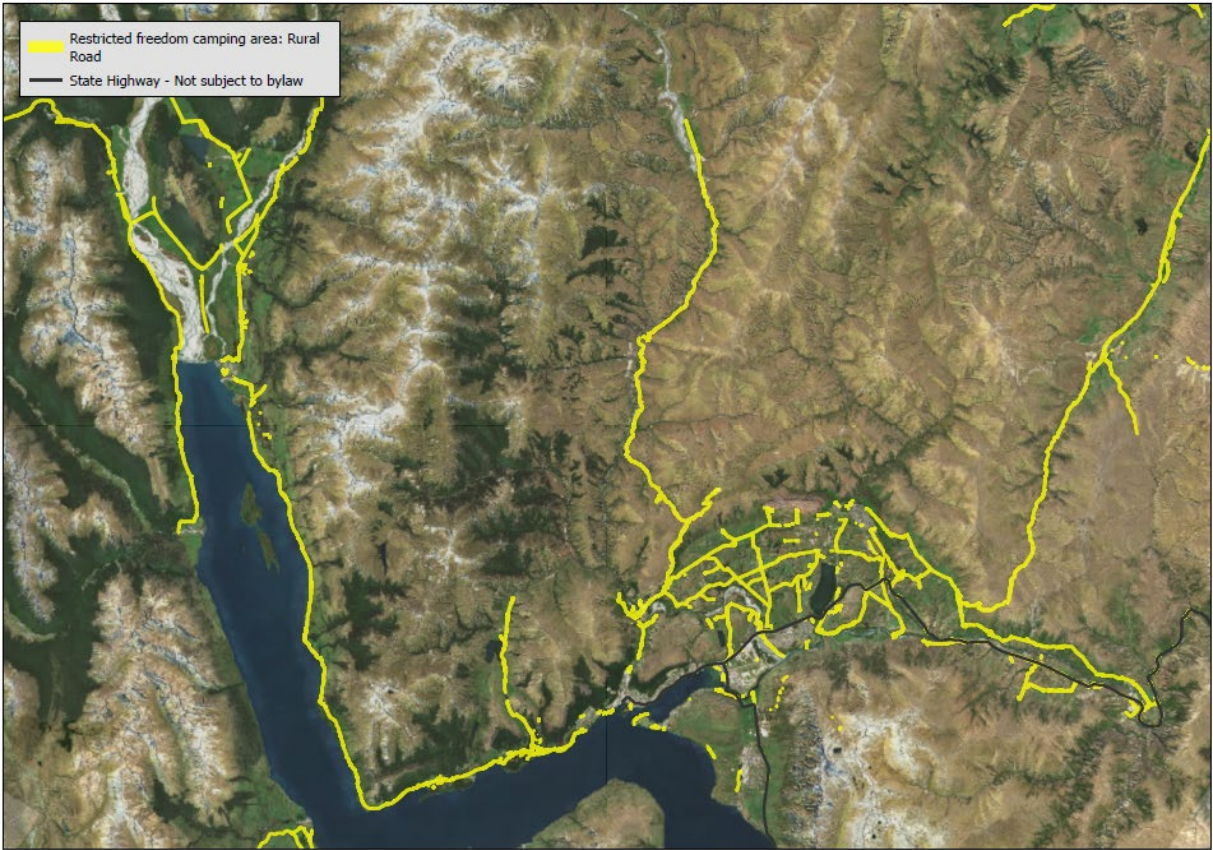
- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area under the Reserves Act 1977

A person freedom camping in this location must:

1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
2. use one of the 10 marked motor vehicle spaces;
3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
4. leave any marked space before 8:00 am;
5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
7. not leave any waste;
8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

Schedule 1B – Restricted freedom camping areas – Rural roads





Schedule 2 – Prohibited freedom camping areas





