



Policy Guidelines

Recreational Vehicles

Development and Management of Facilities

Caravan and holiday parks supply almost half of the commercial accommodation outside the major centres of Hobart and Launceston, accounting for 16% of all holiday visitor nights in Tasmania.

The number of caravans, campervans and motor homes travelling to Tasmania on the *Spirit of Tasmania* has increased steadily in the past four years, with anecdotal evidence suggesting that these tourists tend to stay longer than other tourist groups.

There are 63 caravan holiday facilities located across Tasmania, 29 local councils, and to this date, there has been no consistent approach to catering for this tourist group. The introduction of such a consistent approach to motorhome and caravan tourism in Tasmania will enhance the holiday experience, lead to longer stays, result in repeat visits, and will spread the word to other RV tourists. It will provide a boost to the local economy of small centres and bring opportunities for business growth and employment.

The following document is designed to assist councils to plan, develop and manage appropriate facilities to cater for recreational vehicles.

1. Definitions of RV Types

Where councils have by-laws relating to public reserves, camping or caravans it is recommended that they make a clear distinction between self-contained and non-self-contained recreational vehicles and clearly define what constitutes a self-contained RV.

Two examples of definitions for self-contained RVs follow:-

A vehicle that has internal cooking facilities; sleeping facilities plus water tanks for drinking and other purposes; holding tanks for "grey water" and holding tanks for toilet effluent and shower facilities. (Devonport City Council)

A vehicle that is full self-contained with respect to shower, toilet, washing, cooking and sleeping facilities and must have holding tanks for all toilet waste and sullage water sufficient for at least 48 hours use by the occupants. (Latrobe Council)

Copies of the respective by-laws are attached.

2. Permits

a) Signage:

Where permits are required the wording of relevant signage should include the following information:-

- Indicate that a permit is required (in some cases there is a charge and some not);
- Provide directions where to obtain the permit;
- Indicate how any fees may be paid or collected (eg. by council or an agent of council);
- Indicate length of stay permitted;
- Advise permit should be displayed on vehicle dashboard;
- Advise of any additional conditions that apply (these can be listed on the reverse of the permit);
- Detail enforcement measures.

An example of signage wording is attached.

b) Permit Wording

Permits might include the following details:

- Council details;
- Permit No;
- Type of vehicles permit applies to;
- Vehicle Registration Number;
- Vehicle Description;
- Length of stay permitted . commencement and expiry dates of permit;
- Name and signature of authorised officer;
- Date of issue;
- Name and signature of permit holder plus any specific council conditions that need to be acknowledged by the holder.

An example is attached.

c) Permit Terms and Conditions

These will vary from council to council but might include:

- Length of stay permitted;
- Details of where permit should be displayed;
- Details of what the permit actually applies to eg a fully self-contained RV;
- Any other conditions;
- Details of any penalties.

3. Roadside Camping

It is recommended no free sites be established within town boundaries other than designated sites which should meet the following specific criteria:-

- Competitive neutrality test;
- Complete hard stand ground surface;
- Safety from passing traffic;
- Limited intrusion to private dwellings;
- Toilet and waste water dump access;
- Parking and access for larger vehicles;
- General waste management needs.

When choosing sites outside town boundaries the following criteria should be applied:-

- Competitive neutrality test;
- Dump station presence;
- Toilet access;
- Parking and access for large vehicles;
- General waste management needs.

Councils may identify day-use areas where no overnight parking or camping is permitted, place prominent signage and manage accordingly.

4. Competitive Neutrality

Competitive neutrality needs to be respected where there are commercial caravan operators in the area. Commercial operators must not be disadvantaged by the actions of local councils providing facilities for visitors from the caravan/motor home sector.

5. Overflow Planning

It is important to ensure adequate planning is in place to develop appropriate overflow facilities for special events, such as rallies and concerts, and to meet peak period demand. Where this occurs:-

- Commercial operators should be involved in overflow planning and communication;
- Availability of such facilities need to be communicated to visitors arriving in the state/the area;
- Councils may consider utilising local recreation ovals/grounds for such short term purposes and one off events.
- Planning and communication should also involve the relevant regional tourism organisation.

6. Dump Stations

Caravan parks are required to provide a waste-water dump station in accordance with the provisions for soil waste dump points under AS/NZS 3500.2. These facilities are to be available for use by guests of the parks or by the members of the travelling public who may not be staying overnight.

The provision of additional council dump-stations may be advisable as a response to public health issues but should not be developed in competition with any commercial facility. The location of such dump-stations should be carefully considered so as not to encourage free camping or the inappropriate disposal of other waste material.

7. CMCA 'RV Friendly Town' Criteria

The Campervan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) has a set of criteria that are used for assessing towns under the 'RV Friendly Town' Scheme. An 'RV Friendly Town' is one that provides amenities and services for the mobile traveller. These services include:-

- Access to medical and pharmacy services;
- Parking within close proximity to general shopping area with groceries & fresh produce;
- A service centre for basic vehicle repairs;
- A Tourist Information Centre (TIC) with appropriate parking nearby;
- A prominent town map showing essential facilities (e.g. hospital, medical services, fuel, shopping area, dump point, fresh water);
- Access to potable water;
- Access to a Dump Point;
- Provision of short term (say 24 hour) parking within 2.5km of town centre;
- Provision of longer term parking within 5-10km of town centre, at a reasonable rate;
- Council to provide one person as contact;
- 'RV Friendly Town' signs erected at town entrances*.

For further details visit the website, www.cmca.net.au

8. Signage

The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia will provide signage* at cost to erect at each entrance to the town. However as this is a privately trademarked symbol, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) will not permit the erection of a stand alone CMCA sign on State roads. It will accept the sign if it is incorporated into a legitimate Town Welcome sign at the town boundaries (under current existing guidelines.) This must be one plate and not exceeding 3 squ/m in area.

Caravan, Motorhome and Dumpstation symbols are also available to Councils to inform travellers of the presence of these facilities¹.

Councils may erect a stand alone CMCA signage on their own roads.

¹ Tasmanian Roadside Signs Manual,
www.transport.tas.gov.au/publications/tasmanian_roadside_signs_manual

Example for Wording for Signs:

WELCOME TO {NAME OF COUNCIL} OVERNIGHT STOP AREA
FULLY SELF-CONTAINED VEHICLES ONLY
Welcome to [Name of Municipality]
This are is regulated by [Council Name] By-Law (as appropriate)
and the following conditions apply:-

- A permit must be obtained to park in this area overnight. Permits are available from 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ;
- List any per nightqfees applicable;
- Indicate maximum permitted number of daysqstopover;
- List prohibited activities, e.g. campfire, dumping rubbish, etc;
- Please note conditions on reverse of permit;
- Infringement notices will be issued for offences (listed)

By Order
General Manager

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY

Example for Wording for Permit

[Name of Council]
PERMISSION FOR OVERNIGHT STOP AREA
[Details of Location]
_____ Council By-Laws (as appropriate)

FULLY SELF CONTAINED VEHICLE

This vehicle is authorised to camp within the [details of location] for the period _____, subject to the terms and conditions detailed on the reverse of the permit.

Vehicle Registration Number
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ..

Vehicle Description
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ..

Commencement date of permit
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ..

Expiry date of permit
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...

<p>0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Signature of authorised officer</p>	<p>Signed by permit holder: This permit acknowledges that non-compliance with the conditions of this permit is an offence that may be prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of [relevant By-Law] and other environmental and health regulations.</p>
<p>Name:</p>	<p>Name:</p>
<p>Date of issue:</p>	<p>Signature</p>

Example of Permit Terms and Conditions to be Included on Reverse of Permit:-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. This permit is valid for the dates shown.
2. This permit must be displayed prominently on the vehicle dashboard, and visible from the front left side of the vehicle.
3. This permit applies only to a vehicle which is self contained with respect to shower, toilet, washing, cooking and sleeping facilities, with holding tanks for all toilet waste and sullage water sufficient for 48 hours.
4. Discharge of liquid in any waste form is prohibited within the designated overnight stop area. PENALTY: A fine of \$50 .
5. Any other conditions (council specific). PENALTY: A fine of \$50 .

EXAMPLES OF BY LAW

This draft policy document has not provided a model By Law but has provided examples of two currently operating By Laws from Local councils in this state.

Devonport City Council

BY-LAW 1 OF 2007-12-20 a By-Law of the Devonport City Council, made under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1993 to regulate, control, and protect Council's reserves, recreation grounds, parks and gardens owned by or under the control of the Devonport City Council.

PART 2 . USE OF PUBLIC RESERVES

Camping

- 20
- (1) A person must not camp in a public reserve without the written permission from an authorised officer.
Penalty: a fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.
 - (2) For the purposes of subclause 20(1) ~~camp~~ means to:
 - a. Erect a tent, camper trailer or similar portable shelter: or
 - b. Place, park or leave a caravan, campervan, mobile home or similar vehicle on the reserve between 10.00 pm and 6.00 am; or
 - c. Sleep in the open or in any form of shelter or vehicle between 10.00 pm and 6.00 am.
 - (3) An authorised officer may issue an infringement notice for this offence.
 - (4) A person may avoid prosecution by paying a fine of 0.5 penalty units to the Council within 21 days after the issue of an infringement notice.