



# Public Places Bylaw Review

This document summarises the key changes we're proposing to make to our Public Places Bylaw.

**We want to know what you think!**

**Feedback is open until Sunday 16 July, 2023**

0800 WAIPADC (924 723)  
[waipadc.govt.nz](http://waipadc.govt.nz)

  
**Waipā**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**This document summarises the key changes we're proposing to make to our Public Places Bylaw.**

**We recommend you look at the full bylaw if you want more detail.**

**You can view this:**

-  **Online at [waipadc.govt.nz/publicplacesreview](https://waipadc.govt.nz/publicplacesreview)**
-  **Hard copy from Council offices and libraries**

This Statement of Proposal has been prepared in accordance with Sections 83, 86 and 156 of the Local Government Act 2002.

# Introduction

**Our public places are a vital part of our Waipā community. They're used by all sorts of people, for all sorts of different activities.**

Waipā's public places include areas like our parks, reserves, berms and footpaths – areas that Council manages and maintains, that we all share. It's our role to make sure our public places are enjoyed by everyone.

The Waipā District Council Public Places Bylaw sets out rules that help us all to enjoy the spaces together. These types of rules try to strike the right balance between different user groups using different areas. One example of this is on-street dining. The bylaw uses a permit system to set controls for when on-street dining tables and chairs are permitted, which means that the business benefits from having more customers, diners can benefit from sitting outside, but in such a way that doesn't impede on other users of the footpath space.

This Bylaw also makes certain rules for managing traffic and parking such as allocating parking spaces for specific types of vehicles, and managing right/left turns at intersections.

**You can take a look at the full bylaw at [www.waipadc.govt.nz/publicplacesreview](http://www.waipadc.govt.nz/publicplacesreview)**

We're required to review our Bylaw after five years so now is the time! We're proposing a few changes to our current Bylaw - not a lot, but we'd love your input before final decisions are made.

This document outlines the changes we're proposing.



# What we've already heard

**During the four-and-a-half years we have been using the current Public Places Bylaw, Council staff have heard from many people who have used it, or been affected by it.**

We have also received feedback from the Cambridge and Te Awamutu-Kihikihi Community Boards.

The Chambers of Commerce in Cambridge and Te Awamutu have helped us reach out to the local business community as large parts of this Bylaw include regulations that affect businesses using streets, advertising and signs.

Much of this feedback has been taken into account to inform this Bylaw.



# What we're proposing

**The changes being proposed are relatively minimal. This is because the past four-and-a-half years of using the Bylaw has shown that it is already in pretty good shape. As well as the changes, we've also rewritten the Bylaw to make it easier to read and understand.**

## Signs

**We're proposing to allow only one street sign (max 1m x 1m sandwich board) per business premise unless a permit is issued. Currently the rule is that signs less than 1.0m x 1.0m x 0.7m don't need a permit and there is no control over the number of signs.**

This proposed change allows the business to advertise but prevents the streets being cluttered with too many signs for people to avoid.

## Parking and road use controls

**We have five proposals here. These aren't major changes, but they look sensible to us.**

1. We want to designate 'loading zones' to be used for the pick-up or drop-off of passengers, not just goods. This will make enforcement easier.
2. We want the ability to designate parking areas for emergency vehicles on any roads, not just outside their premises. This will enable us to respond to any requests from emergency services for parking areas.
3. We have all seen examples of people doing U-turns in dumb places, so we're proposing that Council has the authority to designate where U-turns are not allowed. For road safety reasons we think this is the right thing to do and it brings us into line with most other districts and cities that have this ability.
4. We want the ability to designate 'cycle paths'. These are paths that can be used only by cyclists and mobility devices, but not pedestrians (for safety reasons). We already have the ability to designate 'shared paths' (for use of pedestrians, scooters and cyclists) but we want to ensure that we have the flexibility to enable cycle paths to be created where appropriate too.
5. We want to clarify that Council has the power to designate parts of parks and reserves to be used by vehicles (including cycles), and designate skate paths.

## Other changes

### **We're also proposing some changes that will tidy up the Bylaw.**

#### **We're proposing to:**

1. clarify that parking on berms is prohibited
2. add to the purpose of the Bylaw so our existing rules for managing light vehicles (that's every day cars) give the Police stronger powers of enforcement where street racing and cruising are causing problems
3. remove repetition in the Bylaw and make it easier to read
4. remove rules that are covered elsewhere in national legislation. No need to cover them twice, and it shortens the Bylaw (phew!)
5. amend and clarify some of the definitions of terms used in the Bylaw (e.g. including reserves in the definition of 'park', 'mobile trading' and 'shared path')
6. clarify the restrictions applying to Victoria Bridge, Cambridge
7. take out of the Bylaw the current Schedules that deal with permits and conditions. Doing this will enable greater flexibility for updates to be made to conditions without making a formal Bylaw amendment, and to enable flexibility to agree new conditions in individual cases.

## Legislative requirements

### **The Bylaw was first made in October 2018. Under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), it must be reviewed within its first five years, and then again at least every 10 years. The review of the Bylaw will mean that Council can meet this requirement.**

The Bylaw is made under both the LGA, and the Land Transport Act 1998.

Section 155 of the LGA requires that before commencing the process for making (or reviewing) a bylaw, we must determine whether a bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem. The Strategic Planning and Policy Committee determined this was the case for the Public Places Bylaw at its meeting on 7 March 2023.

Section 155 of the LGA also requires that if a bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing a problem, we must then decide whether the bylaw is the most appropriate form of bylaw, and whether or not the bylaw gives rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA). We have reviewed the draft Public Places Bylaw and have determined that it is the most appropriate form of bylaw, subject to the outcome of the consultation process, and that it does not give rise to implications under the NZBORA and is not inconsistent with that Act.



# Over to you!

This document outlines what we're proposing but we want to know what you think before any final decisions are made.

**We need your feedback by 11:59pm, Sunday 16 July.**

Further information and copies of this Statement of Proposal are available:

-  **Online** at [waipadc.govt.nz/publicplacesreview](http://waipadc.govt.nz/publicplacesreview)
-  **In hard copy** from Council offices and libraries


Our draft Public Places Bylaw is available with this Statement of Proposal. This document summarises most of the changes proposed but we recommend you read the document in full.

**You can make a submission by:**

 **Online:** visit [waipadc.govt.nz/publicplacesreview](http://waipadc.govt.nz/publicplacesreview) and completing the online form

 **Downloading** the form, completing and returning it to a Council office at 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu and 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge.

 **By post:**  
Fill out the form and post to:  
**Freepost 167662** (no stamp necessary)  
Waipā District Council  
Attn: Public Places Bylaw Review  
Private Bag 2402  
Te Awamutu 3840

 **By email:**  
To [submissions@waipadc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@waipadc.govt.nz)  
Subject: Public Places Bylaw Review

All of the feedback we receive will be collated and presented to the Mayor and Councillors (the decision-makers) for their consideration, likely in early September.

You are most welcome to have your say in person as part of this process. Let us know if you want to do this when you complete the submission form and then we'll be in touch to arrange the details closer to the time.

**If you have any further queries or would like a full copy of the Bylaw, please contact Council on 0800 (WAIPADC) 924 723 or call into one of our Council offices.**



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