



Waipu Cove Reserve Board

www.waipucoverserve.co.nz email: waipucoverserveboard@gmail.com

19 March 2019

Dear Annual Site Holder,

The attached letter from NZ Department of Conservation is unwelcome although not unexpected because after 21 years of waivers for ASH being consented by the Minister of Conservation, they are now giving you and us notice that the NZ Reserves Act must be strictly complied with.

The NZ Reserves Act:

*Except with the consent of the Minister, the owner of any vehicle, caravan, tent, or removable structure **shall not permit it to remain on a reserve for a total period of more than 4 weeks** during the period commencing on 1 November in any year and ending with 31 March.*

Ministerial waivers allowing ASH site occupation have been controversial since they officially began in 1998 because the waivers mean your sites are not offered to the general public.

21 years ago, DoC formally agreed to the ASH camper category as a way to fund much needed new facilities and health & safety upgrades at the Camp.

Now that agreement has been withdrawn by DoC.

We want you to you know where your Board stands....

Over the years, the majority of our Board has voted official motions of support for the ASH camper category.

Information also available on www.waipucoverserve.co.nz Reserve Board Board can be emailed direct at waipucoverserveboard@gmail.com



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We stopped accepting new applications for ASH about 12 years ago to try to protect existing ASH campers by having natural attrition satisfy DoC's concerns.

Late last year senior DoC management asked to meet with us and informed our Board that Ministerial waivers approving ASH agreements would not be continuing.

Opening negotiating position from DoC was to consider stopping consenting ASH agreements within 2 years if our Board was unwilling to work with them.

Your Board has been able to negotiate a 5 year extension (not including the current ASH year) meaning ASH agreements will not be issued after the 2024/25 camping season ends.

All ASH property must be removed from sites by end June 2025.

DoC has committed to approve ASH waivers each year until end June 2025, assuming individual applicants continue to satisfy existing requirements.

After end June 2025, all ASH sites will be offered to the public on a casual hire basis.

We expect some of you will want to consider reserving your sites as casual campers.

Suggest you review our casual site occupation regulations.

If requested, we can try to help you identify contact persons for possible local off site storage.

Storage arrangements will not involve the Camp or our Board.

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There will be many questions for us to work through with you over the next 5 years.

Anton & Lucy are your best contacts if you want to talk about how things will work operationally as we plan for the 2025/26 summer season without ASH Agreements.

We know you will be very upset about this policy decision made by DoC and we are sorry that it has come to this. Something beyond our control.

If you want to discuss the actual policy decision, please contact me, not Anton & Lucy.

027 274 7144

125btr@gmail.com

John Henderson

Chair-Waipu Cove Reserve Board

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