



COUNCIL POLICY

Camping on Council Land

Policy Number:	PO157		
Strategic Plan Objective:	5. Responsible Governance and Leadership		
Policy Owner:	Director Development Services	Record Number:	17/4949[v4]
Responsible Officer:	Senior Compliance Officer	Minute Reference:	219/2024(14/08/2024)
Date Adopted:	14/08/2024	Next Review Date:	January 2028

1. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The aim of this policy is to provide a consistent, integrated approach for the management of camping on council land so as to enhance the quality of the visitor's experience and improve public safety without impacting on the natural and cultural environment. The policy will encourage 'competitive neutrality' and does not aim to compete with commercial operations.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- a) All land owned by the Yorke Peninsula Council ("the Council")
- b) All land over which the Council has care and control and management
- c) All roads within the Council area

3. DEFINITIONS

Refer to Attachment 1.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The footprint of formal designated camp sites and non-approved camp sites have expanded into adjacent areas in many cases, causing significant damage to sand dunes and vegetation. For this reason, camping will only be permitted in Formal Designated Camp Sites as indicated by "Permitted Camping" signs. Council will, at some locations where camping is not permitted, place "No Camping" signs. In the absence of either sign, camping is not permitted.

Camping is not permitted in the designated bush campgrounds unless first obtaining an on-line Bush Camping Permit via:

- a) Yorke Peninsula Council's website

- b) Yorke Peninsula Visitor website
- c) Any Yorke Peninsula Council office, in person or by phone during business hours
- d) Any Visitor Information Outlet in person within the district

Council's Authorised Officers will use their discretion in the bush campgrounds as to the number of vehicles per site, depending on the type and size of the vehicles relative to the space available. Generally two vehicles will be allowed per site, eg one motor vehicle and one caravan

Council's Roads By-law 3 of 2020, states "no person without the permission of Council can camp or sleep overnight on a road". No permission will be given for persons to camp on roads as they are encouraged to utilise the available caravan parks within townships or the designated bush camping sites.

No person shall camp on a designated bush camping site/s for a period in excess of six consecutive weeks. If a person has camped on a designated camping site/s for six consecutive weeks, that person must not camp on any designated camping site/s until a further period of four consecutive weeks has expired. A discretionary exemption may be granted by an Authorised Officer, following a written request for an extension of time, if the extension is considered to be of a temporary nature.

Camp Fires on the ground on Local Government Land will only be permitted outside the Fire Danger Season (FDS).

During the FDS the use of solid fire for cooking and gas/electric cooking appliances in the open air will be permitted (apart from camp fires on the ground) subject to compliance with the Fire and Emergency Service Regulations. No firewood is to be taken from any local government land or road in the Council area unless a standard form SF017 Authorisation to Collect Fallen Timber has been completed, the appropriate fee paid and a permit issued by the Council.

Dogs are permitted within all camping grounds subject to them being under Effective Control. All designated bush camping sites will be subject to a fee as set out in Council's Fees and Charges Register.

5. COMPLAINTS

Complaints about this policy can be made in writing to the Senior Compliance Officer. All complaints will be managed in accordance with PO147 Council's Complaints Policy.

6. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every four (4) years and also as necessary in consideration of any changes to legislation and relevant standards, codes and guidelines.

7. TRAINING

Training needs will be reviewed during induction, annually, during individual performance reviews and as necessary in consideration of any changes to legislation and relevant standards, codes and guidelines.

8. RECORDS

Records shall be maintained as required by Council's Records Management Policy (PO063) and relevant legislation.

9. RELATED COUNCIL POLICIES/PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

PO147 Complaints Policy

Fees and Charges Register

10. REFERENCES AND LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1999

Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 & Regulations

Council By-laws

11. COUNCIL DELEGATION

Any applicable delegations are available on Councils website via the Delegations register via <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/about-us/forms-plans-and-publications/registers/>

12. VERSION HISTORY

Version No	Issue Date	Description of Change
1	18/01/2017	New Policy
2	15/01/2020	Minor Revision.
3	14/04/2021	Minor Revision.
4	14/08/2024	Minor Revision.

ATTACHMENT 1: DEFINITIONS

Term/Reference	Definition
Authorised Officer	A person appointed by Council as an authorised person under Chapter 12 Part 3 Local Government Act.
Camping	Includes the occupation or placement of a sleeping bag, tent, vehicle, caravan or other makeshift structure as or for the purpose of temporary accommodation, but does not include a situation where a person is in a vehicle during a journey.
Competitive Neutrality	Principles designed to neutralise any net competitive advantage that a [State] government or local government agency engaged in significant business activities would otherwise have, by virtue of its control by the [State] government or local government, over private business operating in the same market.
Effective Control	A person is exercising effective control of a dog either— (i) by means of physical restraint (a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length restraining the dog, a cage, vehicle or other object or structure); or (ii) by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.
Foreshore	Means the area between the low water mark on the seashore and the nearest boundary of; a road; a section; a public reserve and land vested in fee simple in any person other than Council or the Minister responsible for the administration of the Harbours and Navigation Act 1993.
Formal Designated Camp Site	Land so designated by resolution of Council pursuant to Councils Local Government Land By-law 2020
Local Government Land	Has the same meaning as the Local Government Act 1999, but does not include any road.
Non-approved Camp Site	Land and/or a road that has not been designated as a Formal Designated Camp Site by resolution of Council.
Road	A public or private street, road or thoroughfare to which public access is available on a continuous or substantially continuous basis to vehicles or pedestrians or both and includes— (a) a bridge, viaduct or subway; or (b) an alley, laneway or walkway.