

**WEST COAST
VISITOR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
STRATEGY**

AUGUST 2006

FINAL DRAFT

PREPARED FOR: WEST COAST WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy has been developed to manage waste generated by visitors to the West Coast. It has been prepared for several parties: the West Coast Waste Management Working Group, an inter-agency working group consisting of: West Coast Regional Council; Buller District Council; Grey District Council; Westland District Council; Transit New Zealand; Department of Conservation; and the Ministry for Environment. Other parties also have an interest in the project, including Tourism West Coast and the Ministry of Tourism.

The strategy has been prepared by Tourism Resource Consultants in association with Lincoln University. It has been prepared following meetings with council staff, Transit New Zealand, Opus and various community, waste management and visitor industry representatives on and off the West Coast. Relevant information on visitor sites and facilities were integrated into a database and 'Hot-Spots' (areas under substantial pressure from visitors) were identified.

Our goal with this strategy is to:

- **Minimise effects of waste generated by visitors to the West Coast.**

Our objectives to achieve this, are to:

- **Provide a level of infrastructure and service that is cost-effective, integrated and of the right capacity to cope with present and future growth in the visitor industry;**
- **Provide effective information and education so that visitors use waste management facilities;**
- **Discourage non-complying activities and enforce financial consequences for visitors who are not using waste management facilities.**

Our guiding principles are:

- **A joint approach between all agencies is the only effective way to minimise visitor-generated waste;**
- **'Best efforts' need to focus on those aspects that can be changed (infrastructure, enforcement) rather than those aspects that are out of reach (volume of visitors, use of food packaging);**
- **A flexible, 'continual improvement' approach will be necessary;**
- **Close working relationships with the visitor industry on and off the West Coast is required to help minimise waste.**

Strategic directions guide each objective and action plans are provided to implement the strategic components. A framework to monitor and evaluate progress is included in the strategy.

This strategy is a living document, valid for the period 2006 – 2011. Updates will occur as projects are completed or as the tourism-waste situation changes.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BDC – Buller District Council

DOC – Department of Conservation

FIT – Free Independent Travellers

GDC – Grey District Council

MfE – Ministry for Environment

TNZ – Transit New Zealand

WCRC – West Coast Regional Council

WDC – Westland District Council

INTRODUCTION

This is a strategy to manage waste¹ generated by visitors to the West Coast.² It has been prepared for several parties: the West Coast Waste Management Working Group, an inter-agency working group consisting of: West Coast Regional Council; Buller District Council; Grey District Council; Westland District Council; Transit New Zealand; Department of Conservation; and the Ministry for Environment. Other parties also have an interest in the project, including Tourism West Coast and the Ministry of Tourism.

Tourism Resource Consultants, in association with Lincoln University, were commissioned to prepare the strategy. Funding for the project was provided by the Foundation for Research Science and Technology, facilitated by the Ministry for the Environment.

The strategy is a living document, valid for the period 2006-2011. Updates will occur as projects are completed or as the tourism-waste situation changes over the next five years.

The document consists of a situation analysis, including identification of known “Hot-Spots” (areas under substantial pressure from visitors), action plans and a monitoring and evaluation framework. A database of visitor-related sites and facilities is attached as Appendix 1. People and organisations contacted are presented in Appendix 2. Details on the 36 Hot- Spots are attached as Appendix 3. A suggested decision-making framework for the management of roadside stopping places is provided in Appendix 4 and a sample West Coast Freedom Camping Policy is attached for consideration as Appendix 5.

¹ This includes rubbish and human waste.

² This includes residents who travel within the region.

1.1. GOAL

Our goal is to:

- **Minimise effects of waste generated by visitors to the West Coast³.**

Explanation: Minimisation is considered the best option for the next five years, given Councils' limited capacity to respond to the issues and forecast growth in visitor arrivals (4.5% per annum to 2011).

1.2. OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are to:

- **Provide a level of infrastructure and service that is cost-effective, integrated and of the right capacity to cope with present and future growth in the visitor industry;**
- **Provide effective information and education so that visitors use waste management facilities;**
- **Discourage non-complying activities and enforce financial consequences for visitors who are not using waste management facilities.**

³ The West Coast includes Buller District Council, Grey District Council and the Westland District Council.

1.3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our guiding principles recognise:

- **A joint approach between all agencies is the only effective way to minimise visitor-generated waste;**
- **'Best efforts' need to focus on those aspects that can be changed (infrastructure, enforcement) rather than those aspects that are out of reach (volume of visitors, use of food packaging);**
- **A flexible, 'continual improvement' approach will be necessary;**
- **Close working relationships with the visitor industry on and off the West Coast is required to help minimise waste.**

1.4. METHOD

The strategy was prepared through:

- Background research of local government policies and plans referring to waste management and other relevant reports;
- Interviews with council staff, Transit New Zealand, Opus and various community, waste management and visitor industry representatives on and off the West Coast;
- Integration of agency information into one database of visitor sites and facilities;
- Identification of "hot-spots" via agency staff assessment and input from community groups at Fox Glacier and Punakaiki.

2. KEY ISSUES

The strategy will address the following key issues:

- **Unacceptable levels of rubbish and effluent found beside highways and local roads;**
- **Steady increase in freedom camping, especially by vehicles without on-board toilets;**
- **Small regional population (32,000) limits the ability of councils to fund infrastructure, education and enforcement through rates;**
- **Over-supply of roadside stopping places (between 150 – 200 sites ranging from picnic areas, view points, camping areas, utility sites, amenity and recreation areas);**
- **Different approaches to management of freedom camping, service provision and infrastructure between councils, Department of Conservation and Transit New Zealand.**

3. SITUATION ANALYSIS – KEY FACTS

3.1. TOURISM

- 32 dump stations = 1 every 20 kms; (approximately 600 Km of State Highway);
- Approximately 134 toilet pans;
- 11 DOC camping areas (all with toilets and some with rubbish bins); 38 other (sometimes private campgrounds with toilet and rubbish facilities = total 49 camping areas or 1 for every 12 kms of highway);
- Rubbish bins – numerous, but variable supply among sites;
- 19 Rest areas and 17 View Points (on Transit NZ database) = 1 stopping place for every 14 km of highway;
- Service contracts in place for litter collection on highways and local roads and emptying of septic or other holding tanks for toilets.

Issues:

- Oversupply of road side stopping places;
- Adequate supply of camping areas with toilet and rubbish facilities and dump stations;
- Adequate number of toilets but problems with capacity at 12 known sites (refer Appendix 3), standards (many visitors are not prepared to use long-drop toilets), distribution along the highway network (no public toilet facilities between Punakaiki and Westport) and signs that clearly identify where toilets are located at sites or that inform visitors where the next toilets are located;
- Varying levels of service provision throughout the region;
- Street litter bins and bins at petrol stations fill up quickly from visitor rubbish.

3.2. CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- **1 Dump Station brochure for West Coast;**
- **Campervan company brochures on dump stations;**
- **Freedom camping policy – Buller District Council only**

Issues:

- **Lack of effective information or publicity about freedom camping on the West Coast;**
- **Lack of consistent policies for freedom camping across the region;**
- **Signs could be more effective in locating toilets and roadside stopping places;**
- **Lack of integration of key messages between councils, community and visitor industry.**

3.3. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- **Community voluntary action in Punakaiki and Glacier Region (Fox) on rubbish disposal;**
- **No consistent bylaws or policies on littering in place in the three District Councils (WDC has a bylaw to adopt the NZ Litter Act, and appointed litter officers);**
- **Enforcement rare (occasional fines have been issued for camping in no-camping areas);**
- **“No Camping” signs used around towns, near stopbanks and other areas where camping is not permitted – often ineffective.**

Issues

- **Lack of enforcement activities and initiatives;**
- **Lack of bylaws;**
- **Limited capacity to fund compliance;**
- **Cannot rely on signs, facility improvements and information to solve waste management issues – follow-up by “warm bodies” required to build support from within local communities and the visitor industry.**

3.4. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- **Community voluntary action in Punakaiki and Glacier Region (Fox) on rubbish disposal;**
- **Inconsistent bylaws on littering in place in the three District Councils (WDC has a bylaw to adopt the New Zealand Litter Act and has recently appointed litter officers);**
- **Enforcement rare (occasional fines have been issued for camping in no-camping areas);**
- **“No Camping” signs used around towns, near stopbanks and other areas where camping is not permitted – but the signs are often ineffective.**

Issues

- **Lack of enforcement activities and initiatives;**
- **Lack of bylaws;**
- **Limited capacity to fund compliance;**

3.5. HOT-SPOTS

Sites were ranked from 1 (minimal pressure for waste management) to 5 (substantial pressure) and those ranked 3 or more have been mapped.



The hot-spots are sites where existing infrastructure receiving large amount of visitor flows (Dolomite Point and Knights Point), existing infrastructure is under pressure (more demand than capacity, for instance, toilets at Knights Point, Cape Foulwind/Omau, Ship Creek, Lake Matheson and Gillespies Beach), or infrastructure is not currently provided (Clearwater Stream, or Fox Glacier).

3.6. SUMMARY

- **36 hot-spots identified;**
- **Likely over-supply of sub-standard facilities at some sites;**
- **Need for facility upgrades at Hot Spots;**
- **Limited effective information and publicity that will raise awareness and alter behaviour;**
- **Need to send message that local authorities are serious about minimising waste through compliance and enforcement action;**
- **Signs, improved facilities and more effective information will not be enough to change all visitor behaviour. Enforcement of bylaws and policies will also be required, but over-zealous policing should be avoided to maintain a quality West Coast visitor experience;**
- **Better coordination between agencies is required to solve these issues.**

4. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR MANAGING VISITOR WASTE

This section provides a strategic discussion on the three key elements of the strategy. The discussion forms a rationale for the following Action Plans.

4.1. INFRASTRUCTURE

The Situation Analysis illustrates that there are a large number of toilets and rubbish containers already provided. These are associated with the large number (approximately 200) of roadside stopping places that have developed in an ad-hoc fashion over many years. It can also be argued that there is an adequate supply of camping areas with toilet and litter facilities (49 in total). The key infrastructure issues are centred on the distribution, capacity, quality and efficiency of infrastructure.

Strategic Directions

- 1) Develop a decision-making framework for the management and prioritisation of roadside stopping places. The framework would categorise roadside stopping places on the highway network, appropriate provision of facilities and level of service. The outcome would be more consistent standards of facilities and servicing on the West Coast highway network. Transit NZ has already indicated a willingness to help structure this and a similar approach has been partially implemented on State Highway 73 (refer also to Appendix 4).
- 2) Once the decision-making framework has been developed, it needs to be applied consistently along the West Coast highway network. This is likely to lead to a rationalisation of roadside stopping places. An inter-agency approach is required to develop an inventory and assess sites. Transit NZ is a key player in terms of the assessment of safe stopping distances at roadside pull-offs. The previous application of this approach on State Highway 73 may be helpful in this regard.
- 3) Up to 36 Hot Spots have been identified. Most of these require upgrades to existing infrastructure or more effective enforcement of freedom camping. Many sites listed (refer to Appendix 3) are already included in capital work programmes of the various agencies. Cost estimates for each site have not been included at this point as this is still considered work in progress.
- 4) Stakeholders agreed that it would be helpful for visitors if signs and information boards informed visitors of the next roadside stopping places and freedom camping areas. Members of the West Coast Waste Management Working Group indicated that a consistent sign system should be used for the region in this regard.
- 5) The use of large “tourist rubbish” skips at selected rest areas and at petrol stations was also supported in principle. The skips should have the same design and colour for the entire West Coast region. The idea of fewer, larger capacity skips is to overcome two key problems: (a) visitors tend to collect rubbish in a supermarket shopping bag and put these into bins at petrol stations and in townships that are not designed to handle that sort of load, (b) the conventional 200 litre bins used in some areas are poorly suited to rubbish collection because they fill-up with water and are heavy to lift and empty. Location and arrangement of the skips could be coordinated and rationalised through the

framework for the management and prioritisation of roadside stopping places and specific Hot Spot requirements. There may also be a revision to existing rubbish and disposal contracts required if this option is pursued.

- 6) The effectiveness of all litter and effluent disposal contracts, and the management of those contracts should be reviewed. Contract reviews should be based on the decision-making framework for the management and prioritisation of roadside stopping places.
- 7) With ongoing increases in the cost of maintaining public toilets and litter bins, it would be worthwhile considering other possibilities for provision of these facilities and services. One option involves sponsorship and advertising. This has been used successfully on SH1 between Wellington and Wanganui. This may only be useful for selected sites.

4.2. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

The Situation Analysis shows that only selected information on waste facilities and services is available for tourists travelling on the West Coast. Most notably, there is a brochure on dump stations available for the region, which is supplied by information outlets and campervan companies. The key issues are a lack of effective information or publicity about the location of toilets and roadside stopping places, and about freedom camping in the region. There also needs to be more integration of key messages between councils, community and the visitor industry.

Strategic Directions

- 1) Re-enforce a good working relationship with Tourism West Coast. Utilise the experience of this organisation and visitor centres to communicate effectively to visitors. Possibly include an update on the Tourism West Coast website and tourist information brochures on how visitors can help minimise waste production.
- 2) Liaise and work with the visitor industry stakeholders to “brainstorm” effective ways for getting messages across about minimising waste. A brief workshop may be most effective to inform stakeholders about the current situation and to exchange ideas for a way forward. Separate industry meetings could be held in Buller, Grey and Westland Districts to address individual issues, especially regarding Hot Spots.
- 3) Stakeholders agreed that there is only minimal information for visitors about tourist waste on the West Coast. New publicity material (e.g posters) is required to encourage responsible waste management and the use of facilities and services available. Creative and positive messages in effective locations, such as information boards at rest areas, on the back of toilet doors, campground kitchens and visitor centres should be used to connect with visitors. In general, it was strongly supported to keep all information material consistent in form and design for the region.
- 4) Encourage freedom campers without self-containment facilities to use campgrounds. A poster map identifying where freedom camping can and cannot occur would be helpful. A new West Coast Freedom Camping Guide (brochure format and PDF file on Tourism West Coast’s website) would be useful accompaniment to the poster.

4.3. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The Situation Analysis indicated that there is mainly voluntary community action on visitor waste management and freedom camping issues. The three District Councils have no consistent bylaws or policies in place on littering or freedom camping. The Westland District Council has a bylaw to adopt the New Zealand Litter Act and the Buller District Council has an overnight Camping Policy but enforcement has been difficult.

Strategic Directions

- 1) All stakeholders in principle supported the introduction and need for bylaws for freedom camping. Bylaws should be developed consistently across WDC, GDC and BDC for freedom camping. Variations in the bylaws may create confusion among visitors and residents.
- 2) Local government indicated only limited funds are available to enforce bylaws. It is suggested to seek matching grant funds from central government to pilot a 2-year enforcement programme that works closely with the visitor industry and local communities. A programme would be most effective during the peak season, and focusing on key problem areas. Enforcement should include warnings, instant fines by credit card or cash and potential prosecutions (last resort).
- 3) The introduction of bylaws should be accompanied by consistent signs to inform visitors of “OK” and “No Go” freedom camping areas. This should be coordinated with the publication of a West Coast Freedom Camping Guide.

5. ACTION PLANS

1. INFRASTRUCTURE

	Project	Lead Agencies	Suggested Timing	Indicative Cost
1.1	Develop framework for management and prioritisation of roadside stopping places. Transit NZ has already indicated a willingness to help structure this.	All	2006-2007	\$35,000 - \$50,000 external costs plus internal agency costs for staff time, travel etc
1.2	Rationalise roadside stopping places using new management/prioritisation framework.	All	2007-2011	Ongoing -
1.3	Undertake planned upgrades or rationalisation at Hot-Spots.	All	2006-2011	Depends on specification for each site.
1.4	Use signs to inform visitors of next roadside toilet/rest/rubbish amenities.	TNZ	2007-2011	\$20,000 per annum?
1.5	Consider use of large "tourist rubbish" skips at petrol stations and selected rest areas. Use same colour scheme for region. Rationalise number of rubbish bins at other sites as per service standards developed in project 1.1.	All	2007-2008	Revision to existing rubbish collection and disposal contracts required if this option is pursued.
1.6	Review effectiveness of all litter and effluent disposal contracts and management of those contracts. Alter contracts to reduce input in some areas and increase input in other areas. Contract reviews should be influenced by projects 1.1 and 1.2.	TNZ, GDC, BDC, WDC, DOC	2006-2007	Internal to GDC, WDC, BDC, DOC and TNZ.
1.7	Consider sponsorship/advertising option of toilet provision and rest area maintenance as successfully used on SH1 between Wellington and Wanganui.	All	2006-2007	To be determined.

2. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

	Project	Lead Agencies	Suggested Timing	Indicative Costs
2.1	Work with Tourism West Coast to update regional website on how visitors should help minimise waste production.	WCRC	2006-2007	
2.2	Develop new publicity material (posters) for visitors to encourage responsible waste management and use of facilities. Use creative messages in effective locations – campground kitchens, on back of toilet doors, in iSites. Encourage freedom campers without on-board toilets to use campgrounds. Identify on poster map where freedom camping can occur and conditions that apply. Identify 'No Go' areas.	Waste Management Working Group		\$5,000 - \$8,000
2.3	Develop new West Coast Freedom Camping guide for motorhomes (all types) and FIT sector in general. Put on key West Coast websites as a PDF file.	Waste Management Working Group		\$5,000 - \$8,000
2.4	Work with the visitor industry to 'brainstorm' effective ways for getting messages across about minimising waste.	District Councils	2006-2007	Up to \$2,000 for internal (staff time) and external meeting costs (venue catering, advertising and follow-up correspondence).

3. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

	Project	Lead Agencies	Suggested Timing	Indicative Costs
3.1	Develop consistent bylaws across WDC, GDC and BDC for freedom camping.	WDC, BDC, GDC	2006-2008	Internal.
3.2	Seek matching grant funds from central government to pilot a 2-year enforcement programme, working closely with the visitor industry and local communities.	Waste Management Group – led by Councils	2007-2009	\$35,000 - \$50,000 p.a. to cover labour costs, travel (vehicle running) and misc materials over peak season only (November – March), focusing on problem areas.
3.3	Use signs to inform visitors of 'OK' and "No Go" freedom camping areas. This project should be linked to projects 2.2 (local publicity) and 2.3 (freedom camp guide).	TNZ and Councils	2007-2009	Dependent on when areas are identified and agreed on by agencies (refer projects 1.2 and 2.3).

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The effectiveness of this strategy will be monitored through this framework:

Key Indicator	Measure	Targets	Assumptions
Rubbish beside highways and district roads	Amount collected (# of bags or weight) from bins and roadsides.	More in bins and less beside roads by 2011.	Effective system of 'tourist rubbish' skips and bins may lead to reduction in roadside litter from visitors.
Effluent	Amount emptied from tanks Amount observed or recorded at road ends and beside roads.	More in toilets and less beside road.	Functional, clean, sign posted and advertised toilets may encourage better use and reduce roadside toileting.
Visitor Satisfaction	Visitor Surveys.	85% of sample report high level of satisfaction with toilets and rubbish facilities.	Clean, functional and well-advertised facilities will be noticed by visitors and may encourage better use of these.
Visitor Behaviour	Use of facilities.	Higher level of facility use and reduction of roadside waste (rubbish and litter).	Good, functional facilities, together with effective information and compliance, could lead to a change in visitor behaviour.

APPENDIX 1 – DATABASE OF VISITOR RELATED SITES AND FACILITIES

Separate Excel file.

APPENDIX 2: PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS CONTACTED

Lillie Sadler	West Coast Regional Council
Gill Pontin	West Coast Regional Council
Mary Traves	West Coast Regional Council
Francois Barton	Ministry for Environment
Farah Fawzi	Ministry for Environment
Eric Park	Ministry for Environment
Eric de Boer	Department of Conservation
Chris Hickford	Department of Conservation
Bede Brown	Buller District Council
Steve Griffin	Buller District Council
Peter McConnell	Grey District Council
Richard Cotton	Westland District Council
Rob Daniel	Westland District Council
Peter Connors	Transit New Zealand
Mark Pinner	Transit New Zealand
Nadia Kimberley-Ward	Ministry of Tourism
Theresa Allan	Opus International Consultants Ltd
Mike Wellard	Fox Glacier Community Council
Sue Sullivan	THL Rentals
Lyn Taylor	Westport Information Centre
Operations Manager	Reefton Visitor Information Centre
Bru Grant	Paparoa National Park Visitor Centre
Operations Manager	Greymouth i-Site
Operations Manager	Westland Visitor Information Centre

Operations Manager	Ross Goldfields Visitor Information Centre
Donna Shield	Franz Josef Visitor Centre
Pam McDonald	Haast Visitor Centre
Bill Hodges	Paparoa Park Motel, Punakaiki
Punakaiki Business Promotions Group	
John Collens	Rental Vehicle Association
Barry Lucinsky	Keep New Zealand Beautiful
Sharon Jareb	Dominion Breweries

APPENDIX 3 – SCHEDULE OF HOT-SPOTS (RATED 3 OR MORE ON A SCALE OF 1 – 5 IN SEVERITY OF ISSUES)

Site	Issues	Suggested Action	Agency
Flagstaff, Karamea	Lack of facilities causing impacts at this popular area.	Install toilets and bins and picnic tables.	BDC and private landowner.
Karamea Bluff	Roadside dumping by locals.	Enforcement.	DOC & BDC
Waimangaroa	Toilets not coping with demand.	Upgrade toilets.	BDC
Lyell Creek	Possible seepage from toilets.	Continue to monitor	DOC
Denniston	Rubbish dumping from locals.	DOC is planning new toilets. BDC will need to consider the need for bins and rubbish collection	DOC & BDC
Carters Beach	Toilets do not meet demand capacity.	Upgrade of facility.	BDC
Cape Foulwind - Otau	Currently no toilets	DOC & BDC to engage in partnership to construct suitable roadend facilities.	
Tauranga Bay Seal Colony	Toilets not coping with demand at times.	Upgrade facility.	BDC & DOC
Nile River	Lack of facilities.	New toilets planned.	DOC & Local Tourism Operator
Constant Bay	Toilet seepage into watercourse. Rubbish overflows.	Upgrade facilities. Larger bins	DOC
Pororari River, Punakaiki	Rubbish overflows.	Large capacity bins.	DOC
Fox River Bridge, Punakaiki	Lack of toilets. Voluntary rubbish collection.	Consider need for toilets and more viable system of rubbish collection.	DOC

Site	Issues	Suggested Action	Agency
Dolomite Point/DOC Visitor Centre	Possibility of increasing demand on toilets and rubbish bins.	Toilet facilities have been upgraded recently. Continue to monitor the situation.	DOC
Marble Hill campground	Not enough toilets – human waste around the camping area.	Improve toileting situation and provision.	DOC
Springs Junction	Service standard low from a joint BDC-private operation.	Review contract and improve standards or consider new facilities?	BDC
Rapahoe Beach	Overnight camping and rubbish.	Enforcement.	GDC
Cobden Beach	Overnight camping and rubbish.	Enforcement.	GDC
Kelly Creek Picnic Area	Waste behind shelter. Toilet on site but hard to find.	Upgrade signage and information.	DOC
Serpentine	Overnight camping and lack of facilities.	Enforcement or close site access.	WDC & TNZ
Acre Creek	Overnight camping and lack of facilities.	Enforcement or close site access.	WDC & TNZ
Donegals Picnic Area	Rubbish and human waste in reserve.	Close access or improve facilities.	WDC & TNZ
Ross Beach	Overnight camping and lack of facilities – rubbish and toilets.	Upgrade with new facilities or close access.	WDC

Site	Issues	Suggested Action	Agency
Mikonui/Surveyors Monument	Rubbish and toilet facilities lacking.	Upgrade with new facilities, encourage use of other areas or close access to overnight use.	WDC
Lake lanthe/North End	No toilet and conflict between overnight visitors and day visitors.	Enforcement Signs to direct visitors to other lanthe site.	DOC & TNZ
Lake lanthe Camp	Demand exceeds toilet capacity at certain times.	Monitor the situation.	DOC & TNZ
Franz Josef Glacier Car Park	Increasing pressure on toilet and rubbish facilities.	Monitor.	DOC
Lake Matheson	Use of day facilities for overnight use.	Current toilet facilities provided by café owner. DOC and interested parties need to undertake an issues and options study to ascertain how best to manage freedom camping in the surroundings. This would also provide directions over which sites (e.g. Lake Matheson, Clearwater Stream and Fox) have the best potential to develop facilities	DOC
Gillespies Beach	Demand exceeds toilet and rubbish facilities.	Upgrade planned.	DOC
Clearwater Stream	Lack of facilities leads to rubbish and effluent in nearby forest.	Work with landowner to resolve issues. Interrelated to issues at the lake Matheson site. Need to get together with landowners, Fox community, DOC and WDC to ascertain the best solution for freedom camping west of Fox along Cook Flat Road	Private land, Campground providers, DOC, WDC.

Site	Issues	Suggested Action	Agency
Fox Glacier Car Park	Increasing pressure on toilet and rubbish facilities.	Monitor.	DOC
Fox River Bridge	Overnight camping and no facilities.	Enforcement and education.	DOC & TNZ
Copland Track Car Park	Overnight camping and rubbish. Wastewater going into the nearby stream.	May develop into campsite.	DOC
Bruce Bay	Overnight camping and no toilet facilities.	Encourage day use only.	WDC, TNZ & Iwi
Knights Point	Possibility of increasing demand on toilets and rubbish bins.	Toilet facilities have been upgraded recently. Continue to monitor the situation.	DOC
Ship Creek	Demand exceeds toilet capacity at times.	Monitor, plan for upgrade?	DOC

APPENDIX 4: SUGGESTED FRAMEWORK FOR ROADSIDE STOPPING PLACES

Problem:

In almost all regions in New Zealand, roadside stopping places vary in design and concept and they are often organised in an ad hoc fashion over time. Often there is an over-supply of stopping places on highway networks and clearly defined stopping place categories are missing. Disparity is mainly due to the involvement of different agencies and stakeholders. As a result, roadside stopping places have inconsistent standards of facilities and servicing approaches, especially with regard to waste management.

Possible Solution:

A framework to categorise roadside stopping places on the highway network, including a structure for the provision of facilities and level of service. This should help to prioritise the distribution and management of roadside stopping places on the highway network on the West Coast. A similar approach has been partially implemented on SH 73.

Draft Framework for Discussion

Type of Stopping Place	Purpose	Facility Provision – For Discussion
Rest or Picnic Areas	Picnic, rest from driving, may also include scenic outlook or view and/or short walk. No overnight camping for vehicles without on-board toilets. Serviced vehicles ok?	Low platforms or tables. Rubbish bins. Signs (MOTSAM) and possibly information panels. Toilets – possibly, depending on popularity or distance to the next toilets.
Heritage or Recreation Site	Access to a roadside attraction – historic site, recreation opportunity of note/walking track/lake. Interpretation on-site of heritage features (e.g. Ship Creek, Dolomite Point, Tauranga Bay Seal Colony). Freedom Camping – No to all Vehicles.	Parking and on-site interpretation signs and displays. May have toilets, tables and rubbish bins but depends on distance to next Picnic Area or township and importance of site for recreation and tourism. Many Heritage or Recreation Sites have composite functions – rest, picnic, short walks, and appreciation of natural and cultural heritage.
View Point Areas	Rest from driving. View and photography. Freedom camping ok for serviced vehicles only?	Roadside pull-off. Barriers (discretionary). On-site information panel (discretionary). No toilets or rubbish bins.
Utility Sites	Highway maintenance, weigh station, stock effluent disposal etc. Freedom Camping ok?	No recreation facilities

APPENDIX 5: POTENTIAL WEST COAST FREEDOM CAMPING POLICY

Problem:

Freedom camping is a regular activity, both by visitors travelling by campervan to the West Coast and by locals, especially during the whitebait season. In recent years, there has been strong visitor growth on the West Coast, increasing the number of campervans and freedom campers. As a result, parking and waste management problems have developed, particularly regarding campervans without self-contained facilities.

Possible Solution:

Independent travellers or campers should be encouraged to use camping grounds and other accommodation facilities as much as possible. For those who prefer to freedom camp, the “rules of the game” should be made clear. The “rules of the game” could take the form of a regional freedom camping policy.

Key Elements of a Policy Would Include:

Overnight or freedom camping being permitted on Council controlled public land, except in prohibited areas, for a maximum of two nights in any calendar month, at any single location or similar area. This includes, for example, visitors using motor homes, vans, buses, house trucks and caravans.

Freedom camping would be restricted for:

- Visitors using vehicles which are not fitted with self-containment tanks and do not have self-containment certificates in accordance with NZS 5465:2001.
- Visitors using a tent without self-containment facilities, such as bikers and trampers.

It is suggested that visitors with these vehicles use areas that are within (say, 5 km) of a public toilet and that these facilities and areas are identified via brochure and poster maps.

Prohibited areas are:

- Designated “No Camping” areas.
- Within one kilometre of a town, commercial area or licensed camping ground entry point.

Effluent, bodily waste and household rubbish must be disposed of in the correct type of facility that is approved by a council for that purpose .

All overnight camping sites must be left in a clean and tidy state.

Overnight campers are required to comply with any request to move on by any officer of the Council, or other delegated authority.

A "Sample Only" map has been prepared to illustrate how "OK" and "No Go" areas could be identified for visitors:

Draft Prohibited and Restricted Areas (SAMPLE ONLY)

