



Freedom Camping infringement offences and penalties

June 2023

- Infringement offences from the Freedom Camping Act (FCA) prior to the Self Contained-Motor Vehicles Legislation Act remain in place for local authority and Department of Conservation land.
- There are new infringement offences for breaching rules associated with freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle.
- There are new infringement offences associated with freedom camping on LINZ land.
- Regulations setting out infringement offences have been made. From 13 July 2023, a person who commits an infringement offence is liable to the penalties set out in the table below.
- The maximum fine level relates to the maximum penalty the Court can impose on a person found guilty of committing an infringement offence.

Infringement offences - local authority land		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
Freedom camping in breach of a bylaw ¹	\$400	\$1,200
* Freedom camping in a non-self-contained vehicle in breach of the national rule ²	\$400	\$1,200
* Failing to display a warrant card in a motor vehicle when freedom camping (unless the area is permitted for non-self-contained vehicles) ³	\$200	\$600
While freedom camping a person: › interferes or damages the area, its flora or fauna, or any structure, or › deposits waste in or on the area (other than into an appropriate waste receptacle) ⁴	\$800	\$2,400
* Freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for ⁵	\$400	\$1,200
Making preparations to freedom camp in breach of a bylaw ⁶	\$400	\$1,200

1 Section 20(1)(a) FCA

2 Section 20(1)(b) FCA

3 Section 20(1)(c) FCA

4 Section 20(1)(e) FCA

5 Section 20(1)(d) FCA

6 Section 20(1)(f) FCA

Infringement offences – local authority land		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
* Making preparations to freedom camp in a non-self-contained vehicle in breach of the national rule ⁷	\$400	\$1,200
Making preparations to freedom camp in a self-contained vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for ⁸	\$400	\$1,200
Failing or refusing to leave a local authority area when required to do so by an enforcement officer ⁹	\$600	\$1,800

Infringement offences – Department of Conservation Land		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
Freedom camping in breach of a prohibition or restriction specified in a notice ¹⁰	\$400	\$1,200
* Failing to display a warrant card in a motor vehicle when freedom camping on conservation land on which freedom camping is restricted to self-contained vehicles ¹¹	\$200	\$600
While freedom camping a person: › interferes or damages the area, its flora or fauna, or any structure, or › deposits waste in or on the area (other than into an appropriate waste receptacle)¹²	\$800	\$2,400
Making preparations to freedom camp in breach of a prohibition or restriction specified in a notice ¹³	\$400	\$1,200
Failing or refusing to leave conservation land when required to do so by an enforcement officer ¹⁴	\$600	\$1,800

⁷ Section 20(1)(g) FCA

⁸ Section 20(1)(h) FCA

⁹ Section 20(1)(i) FCA

¹⁰ Section 20A(a) FCA

¹¹ Section 20A(b) FCA

¹² Section 20A(c) FCA

¹³ Section 20A(d) FCA

¹⁴ Section 20A(e) FCA

Infringement offences - LINZ Land		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
* Freedom camping on LINZ land other than where permitted ¹⁵	\$400	\$1,200
* Freedom camping on LINZ land in breach of restriction or condition in notice ¹⁶	\$400	\$1,200
* Failing to display a warrant card when freedom camping in a motor vehicle on LINZ land where freedom camping in a motor vehicle is permitted on the condition that the motor vehicle is self-contained ¹⁷	\$200	\$600
* While freedom camping a person: › interferes or damages the area, its flora or fauna, or any structure, or › deposits waste in or on the area (other than into an appropriate waste receptacle)¹⁸	\$800	\$2,400
* Making preparations to freedom camp on LINZ land other than where permitted ¹⁹	\$400	\$1,200
* Making preparations to freedom camp on LINZ land in breach of restriction or condition in notice ²⁰	\$400	\$1,200
* Failing or refusing to leave LINZ land when required to do so by an enforcement officer ²¹	\$600	\$1,800

Other Infringement offences		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
* Displaying an altered or fraudulent warrant card ²²	\$600	\$1,800
* Presenting an altered or fraudulent certificate of self-containment ²³	\$600	\$1,800
Refusing to give information when required to do so or giving false or misleading information ²⁴	\$600	\$1,800

- › The Freedom Camping Act continues to have criminal offences to address serious offending, or example, where a person knowingly discharges noxious or dangerous substances over an area in such a way that it has a significant adverse effect on the environment or intentionally preventing an enforcement officer from carry out their functions and duties.
- › A full list of offences and penalties can be found [here](#)

¹⁵ Section 20B(a) FCA

¹⁶ Section 20B(b) FCA

¹⁷ Section 20B(c) FCA

¹⁸ Section 20B(d) FCA

¹⁹ Section 20B(e) FCA

²⁰ Section 20B(f) FCA

²¹ Section 20B(g) FCA

²² Section 20C(a) FCA

²³ Section 20C(b) FCA

²⁴ Section 20C(c) FCA