



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW 2025

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1. Freedom Camping Bylaw

- 1.1 This Bylaw is the Tararua Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025, made under sections 11 and 11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the Act).
- 1.2 This Bylaw revokes Tararua District Council's Freedom Camping Policy (found in Schedule 2 of the Public Places Bylaw 2024) from 14 September 2025.
- 1.3 Compliance with this Bylaw does not remove the requirement to comply with all other acts, regulations, bylaws and rules, and directions of enforcement officers or other authorised persons. This includes but is not limited to restrictions on parking; using public places; lighting of fires; littering and excessive noise. Reference should also be made to Council's bylaws including the Public Places Bylaw; Alcohol Bylaw; Waste Minimisation and Management Bylaw; and Traffic and Road Use Bylaw.

Explanatory note: *The provisions of this Bylaw only apply to areas under the control of the Tararua District Council. It does not apply to places managed as camping grounds; or to land owned or controlled by organisations other than Council (for example, the Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand and the New Zealand Transport Agency), or privately owned land.*

2. Commencement

- 2.1 This Bylaw comes into force on 15 September 2025.
- 2.2 This Bylaw applies to the district of Tararua District Council.

3. Purpose

- 3.1 The purpose of this Bylaw is to control freedom camping in the Tararua District in order to:
 - a) protect local authority areas;
 - b) protect the safety of people who may visit local authority areas;
 - c) protect access to local authority areas.

4. Interpretation

- 4.1 In this bylaw, all definitions in the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (and any subsequent amendments) apply and unless context requires otherwise:

Act means the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Camping ground has the same meaning as in section 5(3) of the Act.

Chief Executive means the chief executive appointed by the Council under section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Council means the Tararua District Council.

District means the district of the Tararua District Council.

Enforcement officer means a person appointed as an enforcement officer under section 32 of the Act.

Freedom camp has the same meaning as in section 5 of the Act.

Local authority area/area has the same meaning as in section 6 of the Act.

Non-self-contained area means an area identified in Schedule 2 of the Bylaw: Non self-contained areas, in which freedom camping in a motor vehicle that is not self-contained and tents is permitted subject to restrictions and conditions.

Prohibited area means an area identified in **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas**, in which freedom camping is prohibited.

Restricted area means an area identified in **Schedule 2: Restricted Areas**, in which freedom camping is permitted subject to restrictions.

Self-contained has the same meaning as in section 4 of the Act.

- 4.2 This Bylaw contains explanatory notes, which are not part of the Bylaw. Council may add, amend or delete explanatory notes at any time without amending the Bylaw.

5. General Provisions for Freedom Camping

- 5.1 Freedom camping in a self-contained motor vehicle is permitted in any local authority area within the District unless it is prohibited or restricted in an area:

- a) under clause 6 or 7 of this Bylaw; or
- b) under any other legislation or Bylaw; or
- c) in the case of a self-contained motor vehicle, by the limit placed on the maximum number of people for which the vehicle is certified.

Explanatory note: Other legislation includes the Reserves Act 1977, which generally prohibits camping in reserves (pursuant to section 44) and provides for infringement notices to be issued. The Schedules to this Bylaw show areas where freedom camping is either prohibited or restricted and also show areas of reserve land. The Schedules do not cover all reserves where freedom camping is either prohibited or restricted. For complete information about reserves see the Council's Reserve Management Plan.

5.2 Freedom camping using a motor vehicle that is not self-contained, a tent or a temporary structure, is permitted in a local authority area within the District, but only if:

- a) it is used in an approved non-self-contained / tent area as applicable (as indicated in Schedule 2), and carried out in accordance with any restrictions and conditions imposed under this Bylaw; or
- b) it is otherwise permitted under other legislation.

Explanatory note: Examples of other legislation that may allow for non-self-contained motor vehicles include: reserve management plans under the Reserves Act 1977, bylaws made under the Local Government Act 2002 (including Council's Traffic and Road Use Bylaw), or rules in a regional or district plan.

5.3 A person freedom camping in local authority areas (including in permitted and restricted areas) must:

- a) Not stay in the same area in the District for more than five (5) nights consecutively or cumulatively in any 30 day period;
- b) Leave the area in a clean and tidy state, free from damage;
- c) Not light any fires at the area;
- d) Not prevent others from undertaking legitimate activities in the area;
- e) Not restrict public access to public areas;
- f) Empty on-board storage tanks on a regular basis at a Council approved dump point;
- g) Dispose of solid waste in Council rubbish bins or at facilities marked for waste management;
- h) Use the public toilet facilities available, if no self-contained facilities are available on-board the vehicle;
- i) Park vehicles within existing marked parking spaces or within identified parking areas, whichever is present. Where marked parking spaces are present, only one vehicle per marked space is allowed;
- j) Legally park vehicles;
- k) Comply with any reasonable directions of an enforcement officer, including requests to view self-containment certificates and/or warrants;
- l) Ensure that they do not behave in a manner which causes a nuisance or unreasonable disturbance to other persons camping in the area or local residents (including but not limited to the creation of excessive noise);
- m) Not use public facilities to wash dishes; wash clothes; dry clothes; or bathe (except for facilities designated for that purpose).

5.4 Clause 5.3(a) does not apply where this Bylaw provides for a lesser period for a specific area.

5.5 Despite clause 5.3, a person may freedom camp contrary to these conditions if they have obtained consent from Council, granted under clause 8 of this Bylaw, and they comply with any conditions of that permit.

Explanatory Note: Public facilities include public toilets, water taps (except for collecting water), flora and fauna or/and structures e.g. fences, signs and bollards.

6. Prohibited Areas

- 6.1 A person must not freedom camp in any area identified in **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas**.
- 6.2 Despite subclause 6.1, a person may freedom camp in any prohibited area if they have obtained the prior written consent of Council, granted under clause 8(1) of this Bylaw, and complies with any conditions on the consent.

7. Restricted Areas

- 7.1 A person may freedom camp in any area identified in Schedule 2: Restricted Areas but must comply with the restrictions listed for that area in Schedule 2.
- 7.2 Despite subclause 7.1, a person may freedom camp in any restricted area if they have obtained the prior written consent of Council, granted under clause 8(1) of this Bylaw, and complies with any conditions of that consent.

8. Prior Consent from Council

- 8.1 Council may grant consent to a person to freedom camp in any prohibited area, restricted area, or non-self-contained area, contrary to any prohibition, restrictions, or conditions that apply to that area under this Bylaw.
- 8.2 An application for consent must be made in writing to Council at least 20 days in advance of the date planned for freedom camping in the area.
- 8.3 Any application for a consent must provide sufficient detail about the proposed freedom camping, including why the freedom camping will not comply with one or more of the requirements or conditions of this Bylaw and what efforts will be made to otherwise comply.
- 8.4 If Council grants an application, it may impose any conditions it considers appropriate that are consistent with the purpose of this Bylaw.
- 8.5 If Council refuses an application, it must inform the applicant of the reasons for the decision.
- 8.6 An enforcement officer may revoke a consent given under clause 8(1) if any person breaches the conditions specified in the consent or the freedom camping covered by the consent otherwise breaches this Bylaw or the Act.

9. Temporary Closure of Freedom Camping Areas

- 9.1 Council may temporarily close any local authority area (or part of such area) in which freedom camping can be undertaken to some or all types of freedom camping where the closure is considered necessary to:
- a) repair damage that significantly affects the use of the local authority area or facilities in the area for freedom camping, or
 - b) prevent damage occurring where there is an immediate threat of damage that would otherwise require the Council to close the area to repair the damage; or
 - c) allow maintenance to be carried out on the local authority area or facilities; or
 - d) ensure public health and safety can be maintained by ensuring safe public access to and from temporary events and occasions.
- 9.2 Notice will be given of any temporary closure, and the removal of any closure, in any manner Council considers is appropriate to the reason for the closure. The publicity may occur before the closure, but only if that is reasonably practicable.

10. Relationship of Bylaw with treaty settlement legislation

- 10.1 This Bylaw does not limit or affect the rights of iwi entitlements under any legislation passed in order to give effect to settlements under the Treaty of Waitangi.

11. Offences


- 11.1 Section 20(1) and 20C of the Act specifies the infringement offences applicable to local authority areas, which include that every person commits an offence who –
- a) freedom camps in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw that applies to the area; or
 - b) makes preparations to freedom camp in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw that applies to the area.
- 11.2 For the purposes of section 20(1)(a) and (f) of the Act, any person who has obtained the prior written consent of the Council, granted under clause 8(1) of this Bylaw, and who complies with any conditions on the consent, is not acting in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw.

12. Penalties

- 12.1 As specified in section 20E of the Act, every person who commits an infringement offence under the Act is liable to the infringement fine specified in regulations made under the Act.


This Bylaw was made by the Tararua District Council on 27 August 2025.

THE COMMON SEAL of the TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL was
hereto affixed by resolution of the said Council in the presence of:



Mayor





Chief Executive

SCHEDULE 1: PROHIBITED AREAS

Cemeteries

Freedom camping is prohibited at all cemeteries in order for visitors to access the area for the purpose of a cemetery.

Alfredton Cemetery, Castle Hill Road, Alfredton

Alfredton Road Memorial, Alfredton Road, Eketahuna

Eketahuna Lawn Cemetery, Merchant Street, Eketahuna

Herbertville Cemetery, Seaview Road, Herbertville

Kaitawa Cemetery, Hinemoa Valley Road, Kaitawa

Kumeroa Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Kumeroa

Mangahao-Ballance Cemetery, Ballance Road, Pahiatua

Mangaoranga Cemetery, Mangaoranga Road, Eketāhuna

Mangatainoka Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Mangatainoka

Mangatera Cemetery, Cemetery, Dannevirke

Matamau Cemetery, State Highway 2, Matamau

Newman Cemetery, State Highway 2, Newman

Norsewood Cemetery, Odin Street, Norsewood

Old Gorge Cemetery, Napier Road, Woodville

Ormondville Cemetery, Norsewood-Ormondville Road

Pongaroa Cemetery, Urupa Street, Pongaroa

RSA Lawn Cemetery, Napier Road, Woodville

Settlers Cemetery, Dagmar Street, Dannevirke

Weber Cemetery, Weber Road, Weber

Woodville Cemetery, 16 Pinfold Road, Woodville



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Playgrounds

Freedom camping is prohibited at all playgrounds in order for visitors to access the area for the purpose of a playground.

Ormondville Playground, Terrace Road, Ormondville

Norsewood Waterwheel Park, Hovding Street, Norsewood

Baines Domain Playground, 11 Mangapuaka Road, Te Uri

Dannevirke Upper Domain Playground, Corner High Street and Christian Street, Dannevirke

Coronation Park Play Fort, Guy Street, Dannevirke.

Fontaine Square Playground, Woodville

Balance Playground, Gorge Road, Woodville

Carnival Park Camping Ground Playground, Glasgow Street, Pahiatua

Harvard Park Adventure Playground, Main Street, Pahiatua

Eketahuna Playground, Bridge Street, Eketahuna

Eketahuna Domain Fort, Alfredton Road (rugby grounds), Eketahuna

Pongaroa Community Hall Playground, 10797 Route 52, Pongaroa

Pongaroa Playground, Corner Route 52 and Coast Road, Pongaroa



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WHANAUNGATANGA



WHANAKE

SCHEDULE 2: RESTRICTED AREAS

Area	Restriction
Ākitio Esplanade – Coast Road The area identified in the image on page 2 of this schedule that is in LOT 16 DP 46447 Lot 2 DP 73812 LOT 24 DP 24268 BLK VII Waimata SD-Esplanade Reserve	Self-contained and non-self-contained Max 5 nights within a 30-day period.
Alfredton Community Centre and Domain The area identified in the image on page 3 of this schedule that is inside Section 222 Block XII Mangaone SD, 15320 Route 52).	Self-contained and non-self-contained Max 5 nights within a 30-day period.
ANZAC Park The area identified in the image on page 4 of this schedule that is part of Section 185 Block V Takapau SD, Anzac Park Drive, off State Highway 2, Norsewood	Self-contained and non-self-contained Max 5 nights within a 30-day period.
Ferry Reserve, Woodville The area identified in the image on page 5 of this schedule that is part of Pt sec 19 Blk XIV Woodville SD	Self-contained and non-self-contained Max 5 nights within a 30-day period.
Four Mile Bush Reserve The area identified in the image on page 6 of this schedule Sec: 12 Blk: II SD: Owahanga, Coast Road, Pongaroa	Self-contained and non-self-contained Max 5 nights within a 30-day period.
Makuri Domain The area identified in the image on page 7 of this schedule that is part of Sections 162 town of Makuri, Titoki Road, Makuri	Self-contained and non-self-contained Max 5 nights within a 30-day period.
Mangatainoka Reserve The area identified in the image on page 8 of this schedule that is part of SEC 90 Pahiatua Village BLKS IV XVII Mangahao SD, State Highway, Mangatainoka	Self-contained and non-self-contained Max 5 nights within a 30-day period.
Mangatoro Scenic Reserve The area identified in the image on page 9 of this schedule that is part of Section 21 Block V Mangatoro SD, 60 Ngapaeruru Road, Waitahora.	Self-contained only.
41 Denmark Street carpark, Dannevirke	Non-self-contained - Max 1 night only in a 7 day period.
Town Hall carpark, 156 High Street, Dannevirke	
43 Vogel Street carpark, Woodville	Self-contained - Max 3 consecutive nights in a 7 day period.
Town Hall carpark, 9 Kiwi Street, Pahiatua	

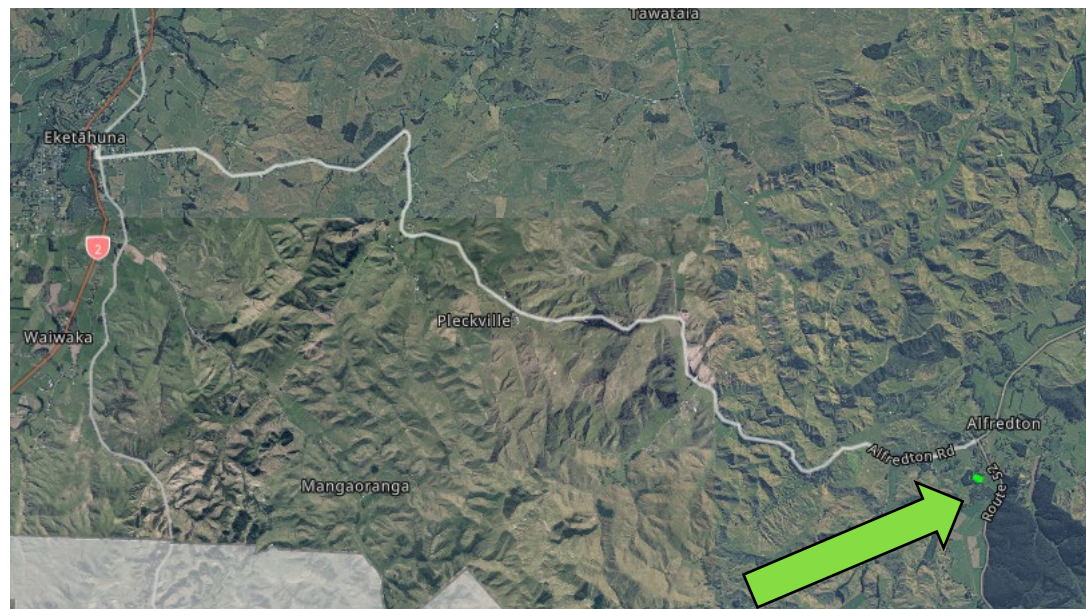


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Alfredton Domain

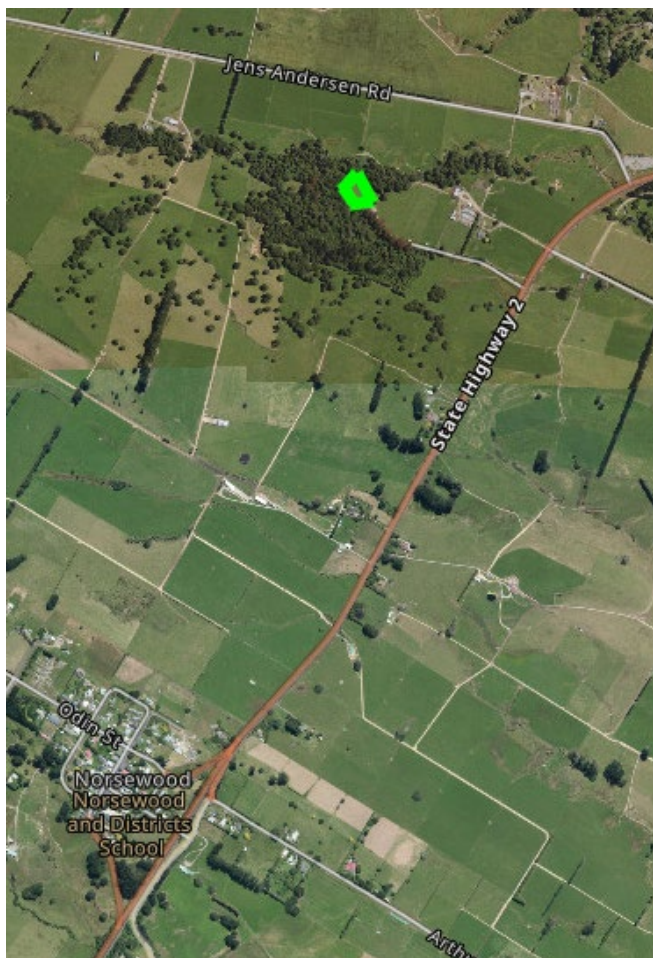
Within green area.



Alfredton Domain in relation to Eketāhuna (top left of above image).

ANZAC Park

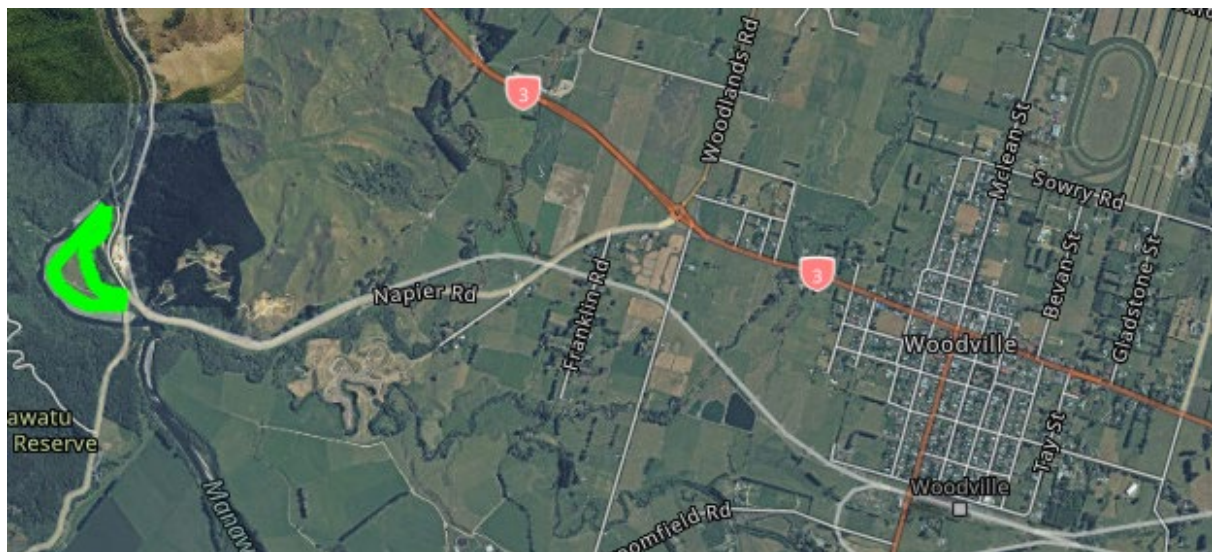
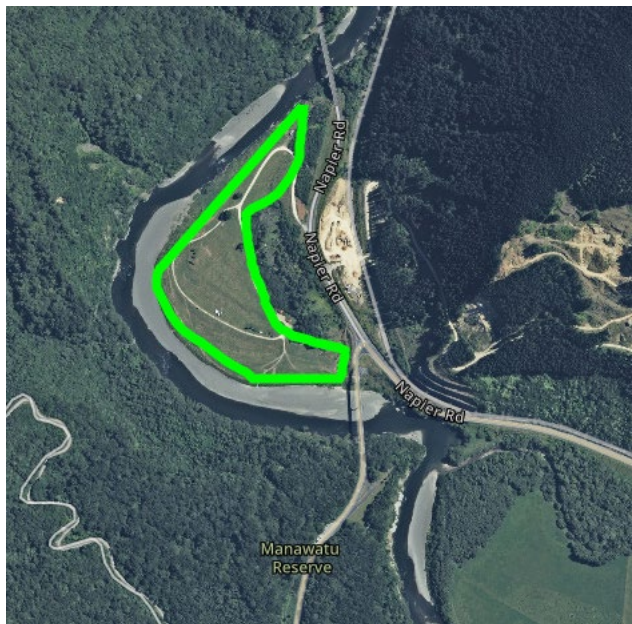
Within green area.



ANZAC Park in relation to Norsewood

Ferry Reserve

Within green area.



Ferry Reserve in relation to Woodville.

Four Mile Bush Reserve

Within green area.



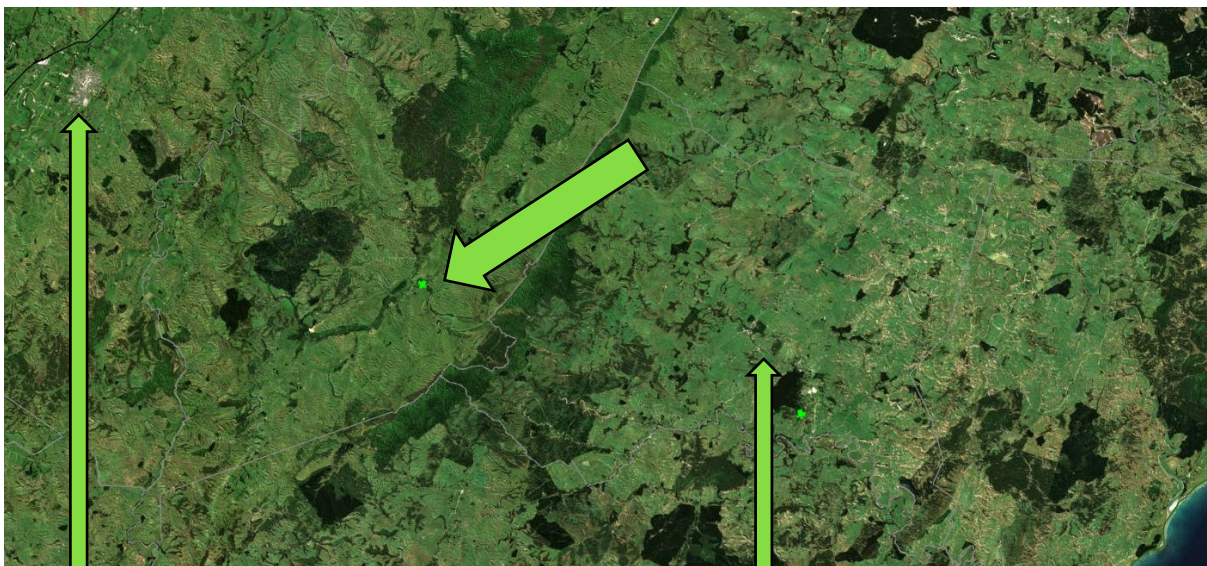
Pahiatua

Akitio

Four Mile Bush Reserve in relation to Pahiatua and Akitio.

Makuri Domain

Within green area.



Pahiatua

Pongaroa

Makuri in relation to Pahiatua and Pongaroa.

Mangatainoka Reserve

Within green area.



Mangatainoka Reserve in relation to Pahiatua.

Mangatoro Scenic Reserve

Within green area.



Dannevirke

Mangatoro Scenic Reserve in relation to Dannevirke.

Council Facilities Carparks

Within blue area.

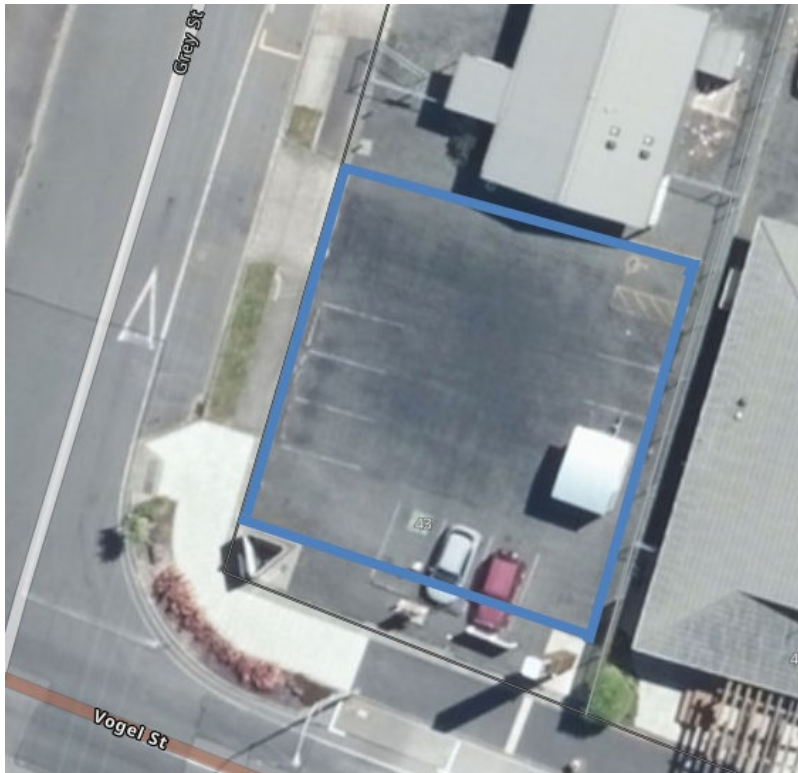
41 Denmark Street, Dannevirke



Town Hall, 156 High Street, Dannevirke



43 Vogel Street, Woodville



Town Hall carpark, 9 Kiwi Street, Pahiatua

