people's panel

Auckland Council

People's Panel survey – fishing, freedom camping, filming in public places, and private property maintenance

March 2015

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2 Key findings

Key findings

Shore based fishing:

- 94% of panellists had visited an Auckland beach in the last year, and 11% of visitors had fished from the shore.
- 59% of those who fished from the shore used surf casting techniques, 52% used rock casting techniques, 10%used set nets, and 9% used long lines.
- 89% of all visitors to Auckland's beaches had not been personally affected or inconvenienced by shore based fishing, while 9% had:
    - Of those who had the most common complaints were lines and rods restricting access or recreation activities (40%), and fish remains, bait or shells being left on the shore (23%)
- When asked if panellists had any other comments about shore based fishing, 24% of those who chose to answer said shore based fishing should be limited to set areas and times, 19% mentioned a responsibility of fishers to be aware and considerate, and 14% were generally positive about shore-based fishing.

Freedom camping:

- Only 4% of panellists had freedom camped in the Auckland Region in the past two years, while 45% had seen others freedom camping. Of those who saw freedom camping:
    - 57% saw it in an area where it was not permitted, 40% saw them in an area where it was permitted.
    - 55% did not see the freedom campers causing any problems, while some did notice littering (30%), saw large amounts of public space/ parking made unavailable (20%), or saw unsanitary practices (17%).
- 68% of panellists thought freedom camping should only be allowed in areas that had adequate facilities like toilets and litter bins, 33% in areas far away from residential properties, and 26% in areas far away from official camping grounds, and/or protected parks, reserves, and ecological sites.
- When asked whether there should be any other restrictions on freedom camping, 76% of panellists thought there should be restrictions on the duration of stay, 62% believed there should be restrictions on the number of freedom campers in any one location at any time.
- 46% of panellists were supportive of freedom camping being allowed in some areas of Auckland, and 26% were not supportive.
- When asked about the benefits of allowing freedom camping in some areas of Auckland, 34% said it would encourage tourism and be good for the economy, 24% mentioned affordability, 18% enjoying nature away from crowds, 16% that it gave access to everyone, and 14% that there were no benefits to allowing it.

Private property maintenance:

- Over the past year 34% of panellists had experienced significantly overgrown properties in their local area, 30% experienced rats and/or mice, 22% someone feeding wild birds on or near their property, 21% someone hoarding / storing things in or on their property.
- 40% believed that council should intervene in private property maintenance complaints anytime potential health and safety issues or annoyance is caused. 15% believed council should only get involved when there are health and safety problems.
- When asked if there were any other comments about private property maintenance, 26%of those who chose to answer mentioned that there should be stricter regulations, fines, and immediate action, 21% said action should only be taken if health and safety was a concern, 19% said the council needs to take more action, and 18% said owners should be contacted, encouraged, and helped.

Filming and photography in public places:

- 57% of panellists had seen professionals or students filming in public places in Auckland, 36% had seen them taking still photographs
- 85%of those that saw filming said that they were not inconvenienced by the filming, while 7% said they were.
    - Among those who were inconvenienced, 36% said it limited their access to a public area, 29% said it blocked parking/ car parks, and 19% said trucks/ equipment blocked access and/or caused traffic congestion.
- Of those who saw still photography, 94% were not inconvenienced by the still photography they saw, while 2% were.
- When asked if they had any other comments to make about filming or still photography in public spaces, 31% of those who chose to answer said the use of public places was not a problem as long as it considered others and did not impact their health, safety, and access, and 29% said that it was not an issue.

Other comments:

- When asked if they had any other comments about the survey or use of public spaces, 18% of those who chose to answer mentioned balancing the use of shared public spaces with access for all, 12% said rules and fines needed to be monitored and enforced, and 11% said council shouldn’t over regulate.

3 Background

3.1 Survey background

Bylaws aim to protect public health and safety, and prevent nuisance and offensive behaviour. Auckland Council inherited a number of bylaws from the former councils and our Social Policy and Bylaws Team are currently reviewing these.

The purpose of this survey was to help them understand Aucklander's experience, and views on:

- Shore-based fishing
- Freedom camping
- Maintenance of private properties, and
- Filming and still photography in public places in Auckland.

The following report summarises the key results and comments identified in the People's Panel survey.

3.2 How results will be used

The findings from this survey will complement other research and information gathering activities by the Social Policy and Bylaws Team (including public consultation) to shape the rules they put in place to manage public places, amenities, and safety, as well as private properties.

This People's Panel feedback will contribute specifically to:

- The Freedom Camping Bylaw, and the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw which are currently under review, and
- The Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013 where we may add additional controls for recreational activities such as set netting

The Social Policy and Bylaws team have previously conducted People's Panel surveys on 'trading in public places' and 'navigation safety'. They have found these very useful in assessing whether their current approach to managing activities work.

3.3 About the People's Panel

The People's Panel aims to provide an opportunity for Aucklanders to get involved in a range of council issues, giving feedback by regularly completing online surveys and getting involved with focus groups and other activities as needed.

The panel ideally supplements other research, consultation and engagement activities used to provide public perceptions to help inform decision-making processes. Panellists are recruited to be 'typical' members of the public – that is they include members of the

public who come from a range of backgrounds and a range of levels of involvement with the council.

At the time of surveying there were over 18,300 people registered with the panel, with representation from residents of each local board area and by age group and ethnicity. The People's Panel is not yet representative of the wider Auckland population and ongoing recruitment is conducted to improve participation from particular areas, age groups and ethnicities.

For more information about the People's Panel visit
www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/peoplespanel

3.4 Methodology

This survey was open from 11 to 25 February 2015 and one reminder was sent to those who had not responded. In total we received 4,185 completed surveys.

The feedback has been analysed in two ways:

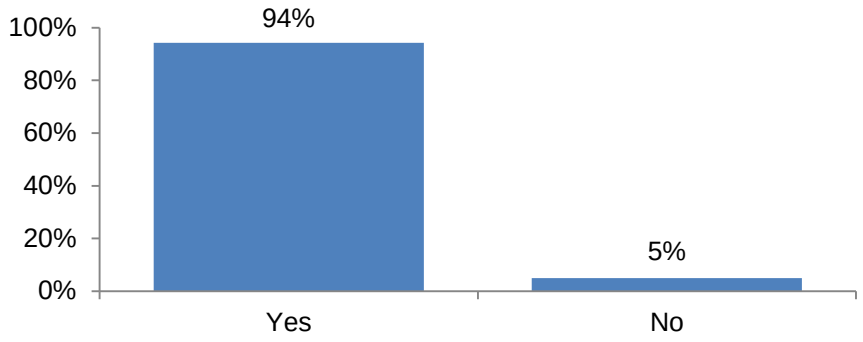
- For the tick box questions, responses to each option have been reported as proportions of the total sample and presented as charts (and tables in the appendix).
- Responses to open-ended questions ranged from one-word answers to lengthy comments with several points and ideas. Key themes from these comments have been identified and ordered by frequency. A selection of comments has been included in the report, to illustrate these themes. Note that in some cases a random sample of 500 comments only has been coded, due to the volume of feedback received.

Results in charts and tables presented in this report may not sum to 100% because multiple responses were allowed for some questions and/or as a result of rounding.

4 Survey results

4.1 Shore based fishing

Q1A. Over the past year, have you visited an Auckland beach?



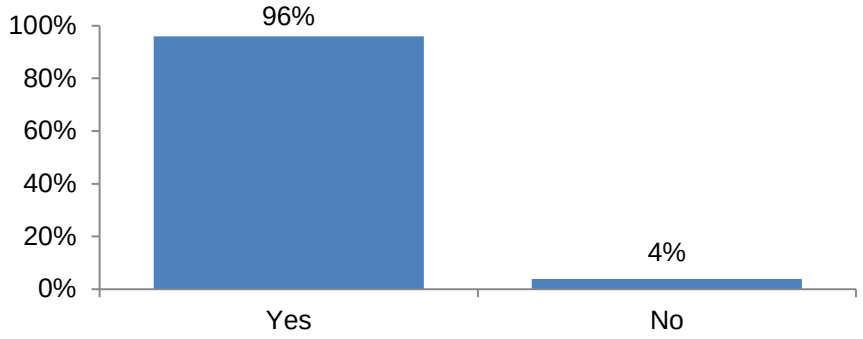
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4181.

Almost all panellists had visited an Auckland beach in the past year (94%).

Older panellists were less likely to have visited an Auckland beach (90% of those aged 75 and older), as were Asian panellists (91%).

Those living in the Hibiscus and Bays local board area were more likely to have visited an Auckland beach in the past year than those in other areas (100%), while those living in Manurewa and Ōtara-Papatoetoe were less likely (86% and 81%).

Q1B. Over the past year, have you used an Auckland beach for shore or water based recreation?
For example, walking, swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, kayaking...



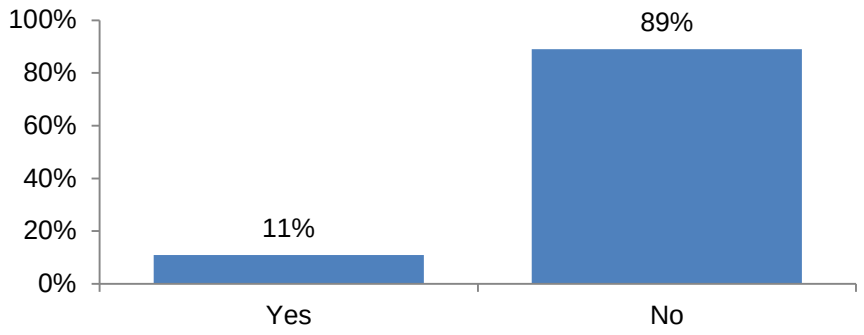
Base: Panellists who had visited an Auckland beach. n=3943.

Almost all panellists had used an Auckland beach for shore or water based recreation (96% of those who had visited a beach – 90% of all panellists).

Older panellists were less likely to have used an Auckland beach for shore or water based recreation than younger panellists (93% of those aged 65 and older).

Q1C. Over the last year, have you <u>fished from the shore</u> at any of Auckland's beaches?

Fishing techniques include surf casting, rock casting, long lining, set netting, drag netting, and crab pots.

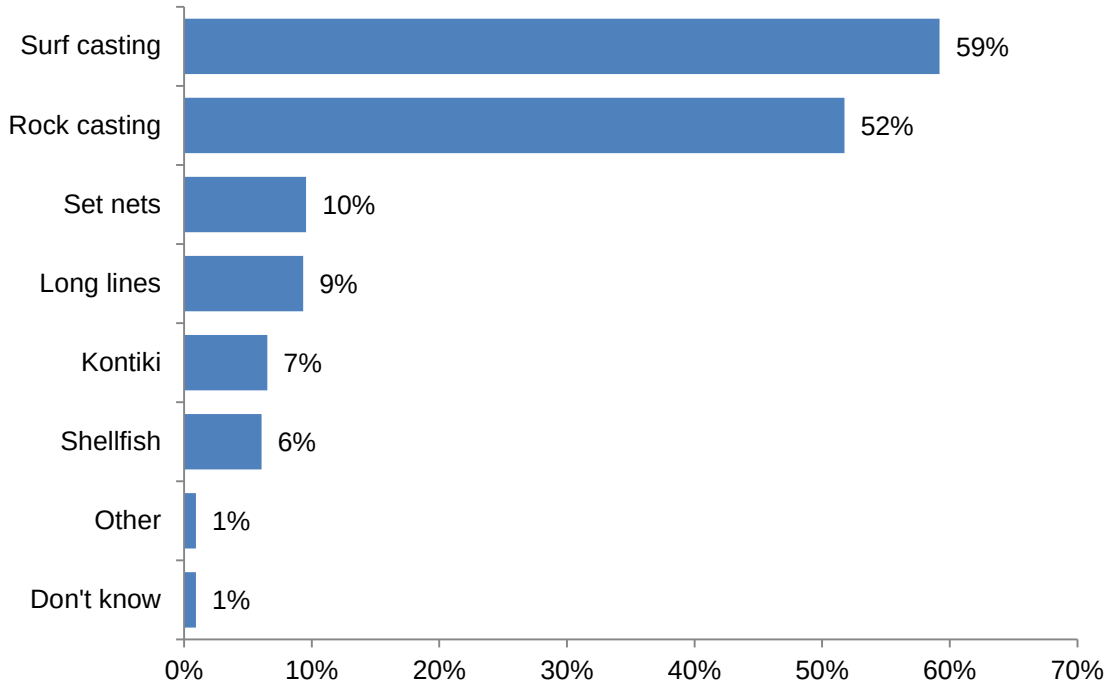


Base: Panellists who had visited an Auckland beach. n=3943.

Only 11% of beach visitors (10% of all panellists) had fished from the shore at an Auckland beach over the past year.

Men were more likely than women to have fished from the shore (14% vs. 9%). Pacific Peoples were more likely to have fished from the shore (19%), while European panellists were less likely (10%).Those living in Waitematā were less likely to fished from the shore than those living in other local board areas (5%).

Q1D. What shore-based fishing techniques did you use?



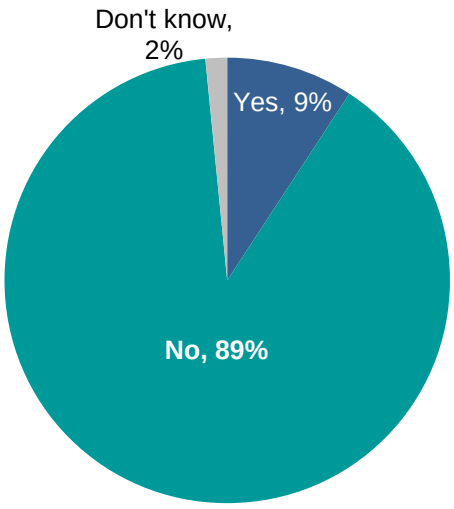
Base: Panellists who had fished from the shore. n=429. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Among those who had fished from the shore, over half had used surf casting (59%) or rock casting techniques (52%). A few had used set nets (10%) or long lines (9%).

Men were more likely than women to have set nets (14% vs. 9%), as were older panellists (33% of those aged 75 and older). Those living in Rodney were more likely to have used a kontiki (20%).

Panellists were told: *"Auckland Council sometimes receives complaints that shore-based fishing causes hazards or inconvenience to other beach users. For example, swimmers getting caught in nets, bait being left on beaches attracting unwanted animals."*

Q1E. Over the last year, have you personally been affected or inconvenienced by shore-based fishing at a beach in the Auckland region?



Base: Panellists who had visited an Auckland beach. n=3943.

The vast majority had not been personally affected or inconvenienced by shore based fishing at a beach in the Auckland region (89%), while a few had (9%).

Those aged between 35 and 54 were more likely to have been affected (12%), while older panellists were less likely (6% of those aged 65 and older).European panellists (10%) and those living in Hibiscus and Bays and Rodney were more likely to have been personally affected or inconvenienced (15% and 17%).

Q1F. At which Auckland beach(es) were you affected or inconvenienced by shore based fishing?

The top five mentioned beaches in Auckland where panellists were affected or inconvenienced by shore based fishing were Takapuna (5%), Orewa (4%), Omaha (4%), Murawai (4%), and Bucklands (4%).

At which Auckland beach(es) were you affected or inconvenienced by shore based fishing?	Number of responses n=517	% of responses
Takapuna	27	5%
Orewa	25	4%
Omaha	24	4%
Murawai	23	4%
Bucklands	20	4%
Cornwallis	12	2%
Mission Bay	12	2%
Shakespear Park	12	2%
Narrow Neck	11	2%
Piha	11	2%
Point Chevalier	11	2%
Browns Bay	10	2%
Martins Bay	10	2%
Cheltenham	9	2%
Maraetai	9	2%
Red Beach	9	2%

Note, a number of other beaches around the region were mentioned, but each was mentioned by 1% or fewer of participants.

Q1G. Please describe what happened at each beach:

Among those affected, 40% said lines and rods restricted access, swimming, and kayaking, and were hard to see. Some mentioned the fish remains, bait, and broken shells left on the shore (23%), or discarded hooks and lines left to step on, or be swept out to sea (19%). A few mentioned general waste left on the beach, like bait bags (12%), while others mentioned nets and cray pots restricting access, swimming or being a hazard (10%).

Please describe what happened at each beach:	Number of responses n=582	% of responses
Lines / rods - restricted access /swimming, kayaking / hard to see	230	40%
Fish remains / bait / broken shells left on shore	132	23%
Discarded hooks and line - stepped on / getting loose into the sea	110	19%
General waste left on beach / bait bags, etc.	68	12%
Nets and cray pots - restricted access / swimming / hazard	60	10%
Hazard to animals - hooks, lines, nets (dogs, wildlife, horses)	33	6%
As above / ditto / same as above	30	5%
Comments about fishermen behaviour - inconsiderate, drunk, smoking, cultural comments	27	5%
Fish /shellfish undersize / taking too much	17	3%
Crowded foreshore - chairs, poles	14	2%
Nets - tangled on shore, dumping excess on shore / getting loose into the sea	13	2%
Sinkers - damage to moored boats, cars	11	2%
Beach access / cars, trailers	11	2%
Casting - general hazard	8	1%
Nothing special	3	1%
Other	1	0%

Selection of comments

- *"A line from a rod was suspended the breadth of the beach, creating an invisible hazard for my young son and I, which I walked into."*
- *"A guy was fishing from the beach using a long line that stretched from almost the middle of the beach out to sea and was almost impossible to see. Lots of kids and dogs almost ran into it as did quite a few walkers."*
- *"Fishing lines and mechanical fishing equipment impede pedestrian progress along the Beach."*
- *"Fishing lines on beach (not actively attended) making for a hazard when walking. Also have come across remains of fish or bait, which is unpleasant."*
- *"Filleted fish carcasses dumped on the beach and around the car park on numerous occasions. Also the sheer number of fishing lines on the wharf can make it difficult to get back to the beach by kayak."*
- *"Wildlife entangled in line and netting, litter, long-line (kite fishing) inhibiting access along beach, fish carcasses and undersized catch left on beach."*
- *"Fishing lines, plastic bags, fish carcasses left behind."*
- *"I saw a rubbish as a result of the fishing. Hooks, bait, nylon line all discarded on*

the ground, plus bread, bags, drink bottles and the like. The fishermen smoke and throw their butts in the sea."

- *"Kaitarakihi is a small beach which is very good for swimming as it is deeper than the other beaches nearby. Most times there are fishers there, one time on the weekend there were about seven groups, hardly anywhere to swim safely. One group had a large drag net which they were pulling long the shore catching all manner of immature fish."*
- *"Lobster pots set close to shore amongst swimming/surfing zones; surfcasting among surfing/swimming zones; set nets left unattended and washing ashore with associated carnage for trapped fish; unanchored set net tangling on legs while surfing."*
- *"A couple dragged their net across the water while people were swimming to catch some fish, then set their net right amongst the swimmers. Numerous people swam into it."*

Q1H. Do you have any other comments to make about shore-based fishing?

Among those who *had visited a beach* in the past year, a quarter said shore based fishing should be limited to set areas away from swimmers, and only be allowed at set times (24%). A fifth mentioned a responsibility for fishers to be aware and considerate of other people, animals, and waste (19%), while others were generally positive, saying it was a good activity, healthy recreation, and part of New Zealand culture (14%). Some pointed out that it was public space, that people have a right to be there, that council shouldn't interfere, and that they were mostly considerate (11%).

Do you have any other comments to make about shore-based fishing?	Number of responses n=500	% of responses
Should be limited - to set area, away from swimmers, only at set times, dedicated piers /wharves	121	24%
Responsibility - be aware /considerate of others, animals, waste disposal	93	19%
General positive - good activity, healthy recreation, part of NZ culture, long may it continue	70	14%
Public space - they have right to be there too, council should not interfere, they are mostly considerate	55	11%
Good as long as - rules followed, monitored, fish size, amount	49	10%
Not a problem / doesn't bother me	49	10%
General negative - don't like it, can be a problem, people leaving waste, chicken bait remnants	48	10%
No set nets on swimming beaches / no torpedoes / long lines	37	7%
More education / info - signage, facilities for fishermen to clean up	15	3%
Penalties for dumping waste	6	1%
No comment	64	13%
Other	11	2%

Selection of comments
• *"Depends on where they are fishing. Swimmers have designated areas, so should fisherman."* • *"Don't see it as a problem as long as people are kept away from swimmers."* • *"Fishing should be confined to wharves and certain times of the day (when people are not swimming)."* • *"For safety reasons would be better if shore based fishing is in a separate area from swimmers."* • *"Fishermen should be encouraged to clean up before they leave and not leave rubbish behind on the beach/rocks."* • *"As long as people are considerate of each other I think fishing is a great pastime and should be allowed."* • *"Everyone should be able to fish, but they need to consider others and not leave or cast bait or hooks where they may injure others."* • *"Fishing is a great pastime and should be encouraged. Beachgoers and fisher folk need to share the space."* • *"I am happy with it as long as it does not interfere with other beach uses."* • *"It is our right as NZers to fish from our shores and rocky places! Controls may be required but it is important this freedom is available."* • *"Recreational fishermen should be able to participate in shore based fishing, but should also clean up after themselves."* • *"There is no problem with shore based fishing providing the allowable catch limits are strictly policed."* • *"I think it is fine as long as people are considerate, and also don't over fish. By this I also mean excessive collection of shell fish too."* • *"I don't think shore based fishing is an issue and people should be free to fish wherever they please."* • *"It doesn't bother me at all. I'd like to fish myself, if I had the gear and organised my time properly."* • *"I don't like it. I think Rock fishing is fine but too many others affected by beach fishing."* • *"It is a bit of a concern if there a young children or even dogs that could get tangled in lines or getting a fish hook in them."*

Q1I. Do you have any comments to make about shore-based fishing?

Among those who *hadn't visited a beach* in the past year,some said shore based fishing should be limited to set areas away from swimmers, and only be allowed at set times, and/or at dedicated piers or wharves (14%). A few said it was good as long as rules were followed and fish size and amount taken was monitored (12%), and/or that those fishing had a responsibility to be aware and considerate of other people, animals, and waste (11%), others made generally positive comments (10%).

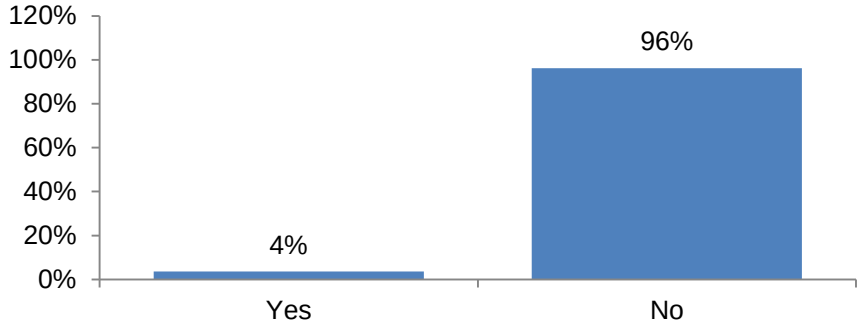
Do you have any comments to make about shore-based fishing?	Number of responses n=139	% of responses
Should be limited - to set area, away from swimmers, only at set times, dedicated piers /wharves	20	14%
Good as long as - rules followed, monitored, fish size, amount	17	12%
Responsibility - be aware /considerate of others, animals, waste disposal	15	11%
General positive - good activity, healthy recreation, part of NZ culture, long may it continue	14	10%
Not a problem / doesn't bother me	10	7%
Public space - they have right to be there too, council should not interfere, they are mostly considerate	8	6%
General negative - don't like it, can be a problem, people leaving waste	7	5%
No set nets on swimming beaches / no torpedoes / long lines	6	4%
Commercial fishing / dumping is an issue	4	3%
No comment	50	36%
Other	3	2%

Selection of comments

- *"I don't think shore-based fishing should be permitted on swimming beaches. Set aside specially designated areas for fishers so swimmers aren't standing on hooks and having to dodge surfcasters. The Lions Walk, Farm Cove, is an example that works well."*
- *"Have an allocated area for the fishers."*
- *"Shouldn't be allowed on popular beaches where there are a lot of children and/or dogs around."*
- *"As long as they respect the water and sea life for example not littering and are mindful of their surroundings, it's alright."*
- *"Should be allowed but only in limited quantities."*
- *"No problem provided those fishing respect areas frequented by swimmers and that they take responsibility for their own safety, especially when fishing off rocks."*
- *"I prefer it as it is not as dangerous as being out on a boat with family. It can be a good day out for all."*
- *"Recreational fishing is fun. Fishing should be allowed to every NZ Citizen, as long as the laws of the land are observed and enforced."*

4.2 Freedom camping

Q2A. In the past two years, have you freedom camped in the Auckland region?

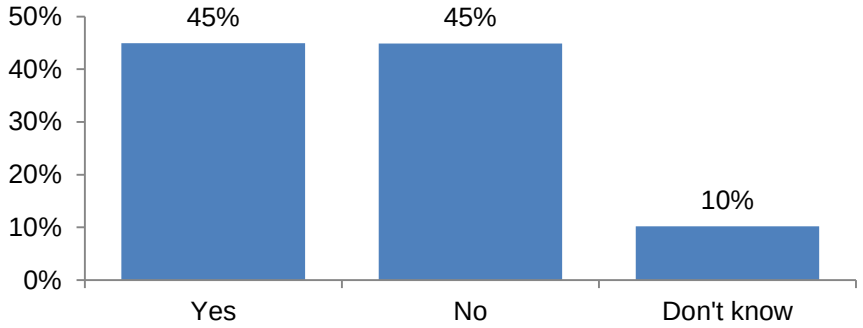


Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4185.

The vast majority of panellists had not freedom camped in the Auckland Region in the past two years (96%).

Men were more likely than women to have freedom camped (4% vs. 3%), as were Pacific Peoples (8%), while European panellists were less likely (3%).

Q2B. In the past two years, have you seen others freedom camping in the Auckland region?

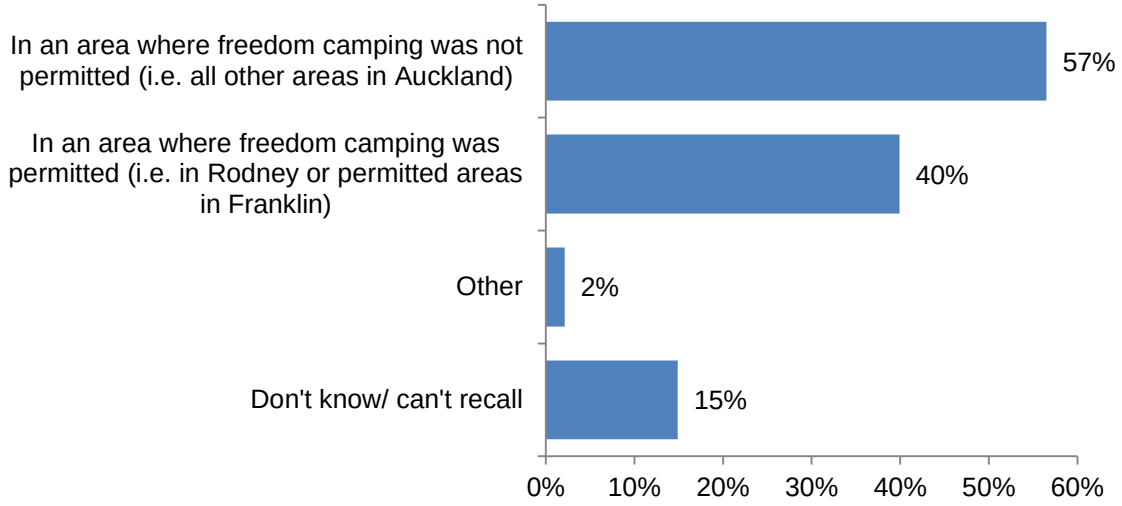


Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4185.

There was an even split between those who had seen others freedom camping in the Auckland region, and those who had not (45% and 45%).

Those living in Hibiscus and Bays (55%), Rodney (71%), and Waitākere Ranges (56%) were more likely to have seen others freedom camping, while those in Albert-Eden (37%), Henderson-Massey (37%), Mangere-Otahuhu (32%), Manurewa (32%), Maungakiekie-Tāmaki (34%), Ōtara-Papatoetoe (28%), and Whau (31%) were less likely.

Q2C. What kind of area(s) did you see people freedom camping in?

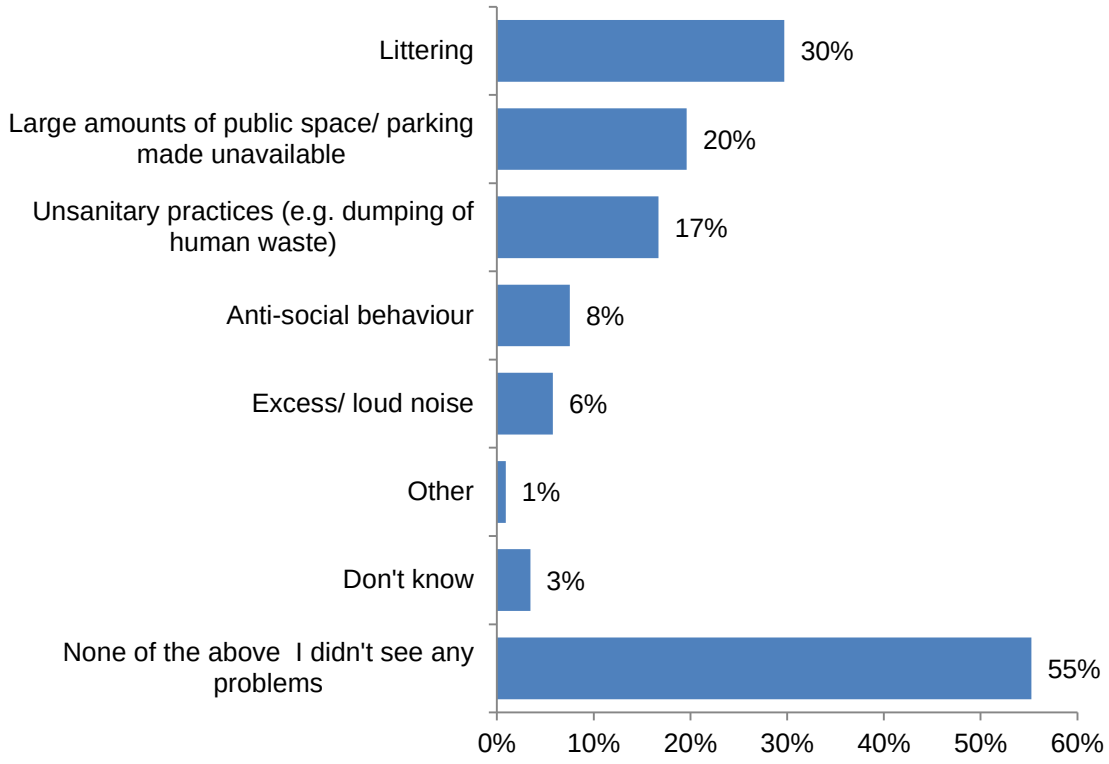


Base: Panellists who had witnessed freedom camping. n=1881. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Among those who had seen others freedom camping, over half (57%) said they saw them in an area where freedom camping was not permitted, while 40% said they saw them in an area where it was permitted.

Those in Hibiscus and Bays (54%) and Rodney (75%) were more likely to recall seeing people freedom camping in an area where it was permitted, while those in Waitematā (70%) were more likely to recall seeing people in an area where it was not permitted.

Q2D. Did you notice any of the following problems caused by the freedom campers?

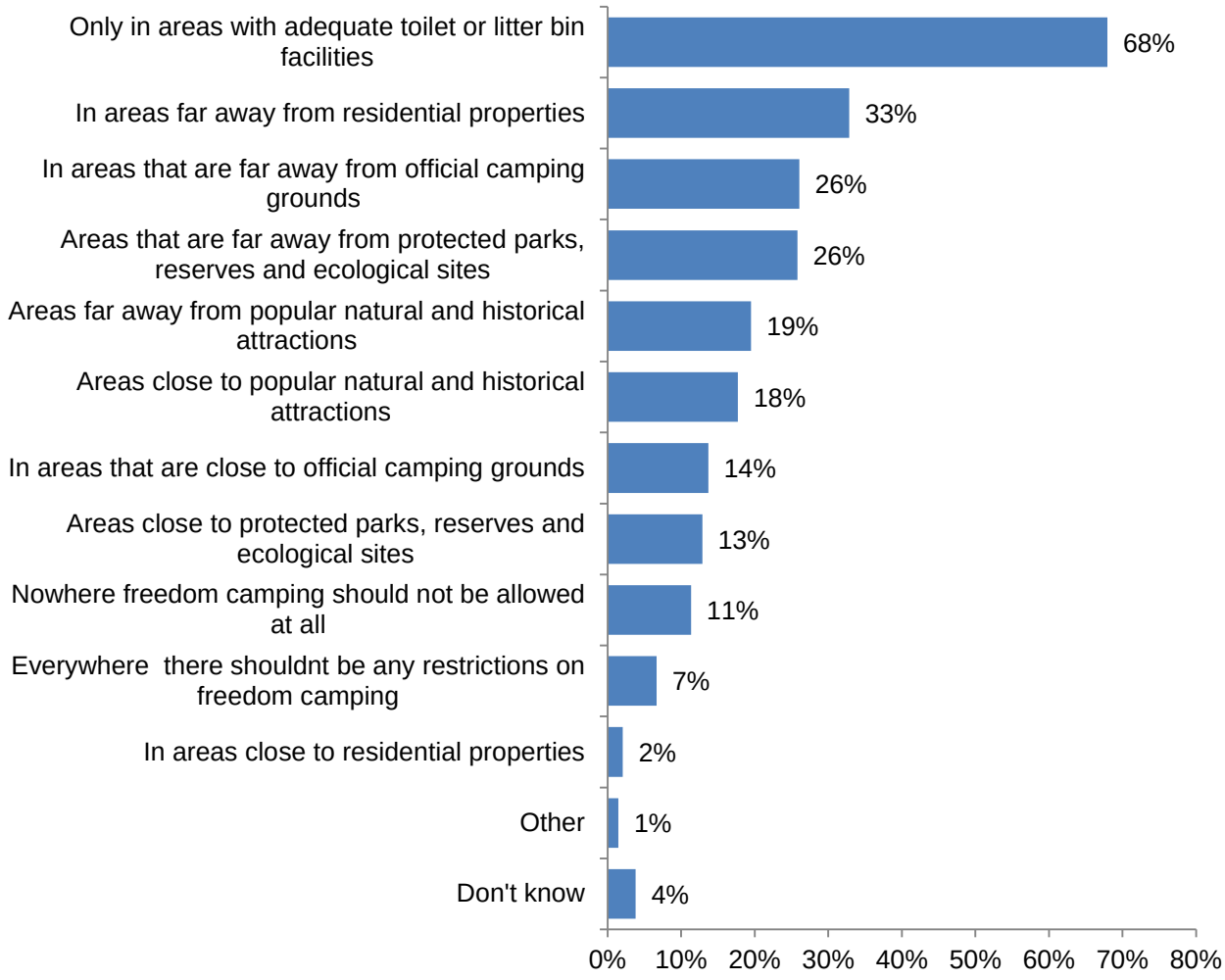


Base: Panellists who had witnessed freedom camping. n=1881. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Among those who had seen others freedom camping over half (55%) said they hadn't noticed problems. A third (30%) said they noticed littering, a fifth (20%) said they saw large amounts of public space / parking made unavailable, and 17% said they saw unsanitary practices.

Asian panellists were more likely to have noticed excess / loud noise (20%) or anti-social behaviour (18%), while those living in Waiheke were more likely to say they didn't see any problems (86%).

Q2E. In what kinds of areas do you think freedom camping should be allowed?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4185. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Over two thirds of panellists (68%) thought freedom camping should only be allowed in areas with adequate toilet or litter bin facilities, and a third (33%) thought it should only be allowed in areas far away from residential properties. Around a quarter (26%) thought freedom camping should only be allowed in areas that are far away from official camping grounds, and/or protected parks, reserves, and ecological sites.

European panellists were more likely to think freedom camping should be allowed in areas far away from official camp grounds (28%), while Asian and Pacific Peoples were more likely to think it should be allowed in areas close to official camp grounds (34% and 32%).

Q2F. Why do you think freedom camping should be allowed in those areas?

A number of panellists said that freedom camping should be allowed if toilet and bin facilities were adequate, and/or that it should be encouraged as it keeps tourists here, encourages people to be outdoors, and is a part of the New Zealand lifestyle (27%).

Some said that people would do it anyway –and that it should be allowed as long as they were responsible (26%). A few mentioned hygiene reasons, and caring for the environment (13%), while others said it should be limited to specific areas, not in reserves or in the way of other users, and in areas where the environment couldn't be harmed (11%).

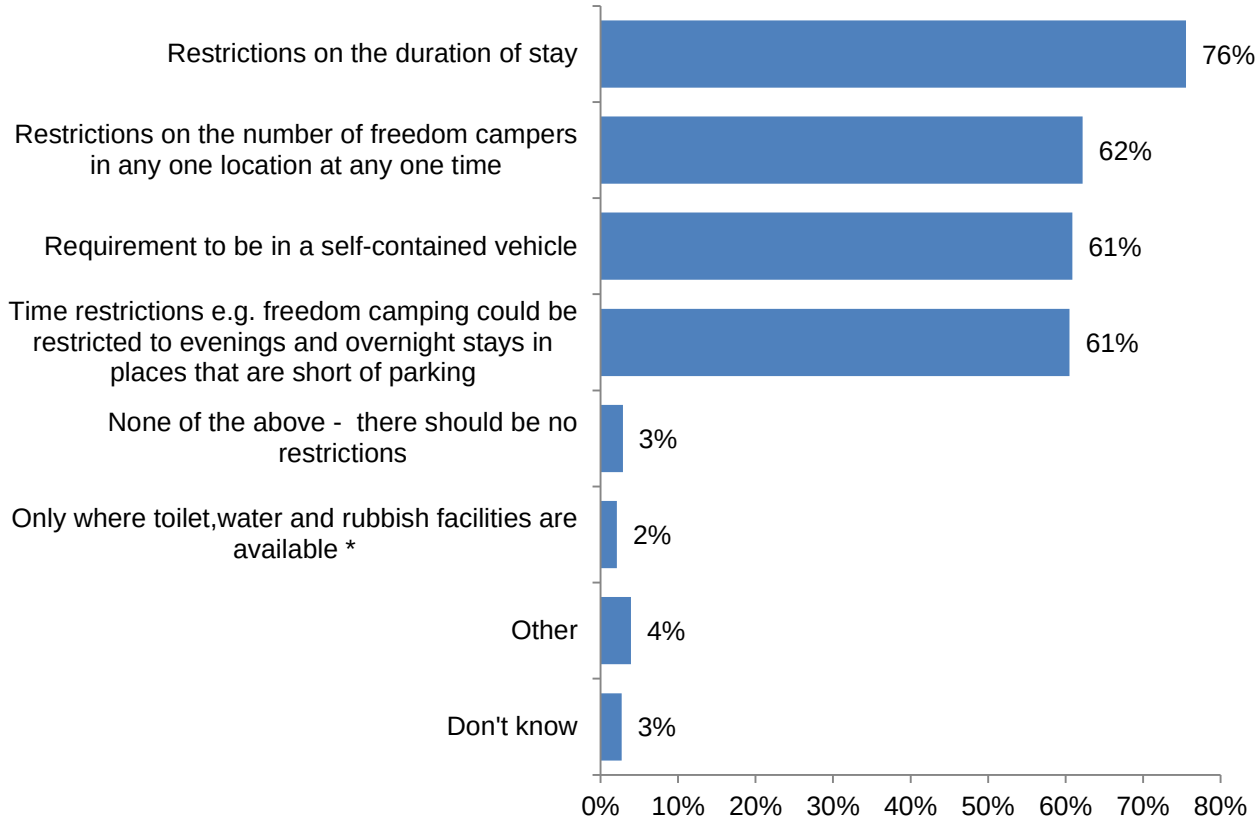
Why do you think freedom camping should be allowed in those areas?	Number of responses n=500	% of responses
Should be allowed if toilet and bin facilities are adequate	137	27%
Should be encouraged - keeps tourists here, encourages people to be outdoors, part of NZ lifestyle	134	27%
People will do it anyway / public use of public areas / as long as responsible	132	26%
For hygiene / cleanliness reasons / care of the environment	64	13%
Should be limited areas - not in the way of other users, not on reserves, only where environment won't be damaged	56	11%
Requirement to be in a self-contained vehicle (campervans, facilities on board)	45	9%
Recreational areas, not residential / as long as it's not a nuisance for residents	37	7%
Restrictions on the duration of stay / limit on numbers	36	7%
Campgrounds are expensive, been sold off, full / affordable way to travel, especially young people	31	6%
Should be allowed if no campground nearby	27	5%
Needs to be monitored / enforced / permits	21	4%
Don't think it should be allowed - fragile environment, hygiene, litter	5	1%
Comments re safety	4	1%
Other	23	5%

Selection of comments

- *"The problem with Freedom Campers seems to be with the rubbish they leave and the human body waste they leave. Permitting Camping away from our precious parks, reserves and ecological sites and allowed in designated areas away from residential areas but close to toilet facilities and large rubbish bins seems to be the answer. Perhaps Freedom Camping areas could be sited at the edge of towns next to a toilet block and large rubbish bins or with the same facilities close to a beach."*
- *"A lot of freedom camping vehicles aren't self-contained and so require toilet/ litter facilities to prevent waste being left on the land. They should be staying away from protected parks etc. to avoid impacting protected flora and fauna."*

- *“I think freedom campers need adequate facilities nearby to manage their waste and litter. Avoiding protected areas would hopefully keep these treasures in pristine condition.”*
- *“If there is no camping facility it is nice to have this option, especially near interesting environmental sites. Would be great if there was toilet or litter bin facilities though to avoid rubbish and human waste issues.”*
- *“Freedom campers contribute to local economies with spending on food, petrol, sightseeing, etc. They are an important part of the visitor economy for all NZ regions.”*
- *“Freedom camping is something that attracts tourists from overseas as well as within NZ. If the problems can be managed it is win-win for all.”*
- *“If it is not polluting the area or endangering flora and fauna I think it good to have a bit of freedom.”*
- *“Because people are going to do it whether we like it or not. Tourists in particular will want to camp near popular attractions. I recently had visitors from Austria who freedom camped because they thought camping grounds were too expensive. They weren't young people either - one was in her 30's, the other in her 60's.”*
- *“I think that there should be opportunities for freedom camping, but not in places that inconvenience other users. Hygiene should be considered.”*
- *“Because NZ should be a country where people are not restricted by too many rules. However the sanitary side is an issue as many Europeans go to the toilet wherever they like. I have seen this many times and as a walker, it is disgusting to come across.”*
- *“They should only be allowed where there is adequate toilet and litter facilities and away from protected parks etc. Some freedom campers are not very good with leaving their site in a tidy and clean condition.”*
- *“There should be specific areas that have access to a toilet and a place for rubbish.”*

Q3A. If freedom camping was allowed in some areas in Auckland, which of the following conditions do you think should be put in place?



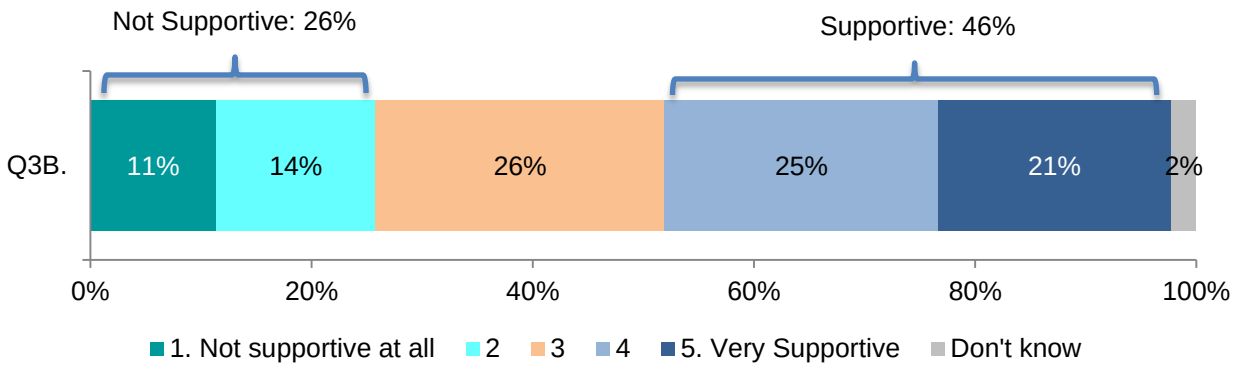
*Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4185. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.*This was a theme from the 'other specify' comments.*

Many panellists believe restrictions on the duration of stay should be put in place if freedom camping was allowed in some areas in Auckland (76%). Just under two thirds believe restrictions on the number of freedom campers in any one location at any time should be put in place (62%), that there should be a requirement to be in a self-contained vehicle (61%), and/or that time restrictions should be put in place (61%).

Younger panellists were less likely to believe there should be self-contained vehicle requirements (50% of those aged between 15 and 44) and/or restrictions on the number of freedom campers in any one location (56%).European panellists were more likely than those of any other ethnicity to think all mentioned conditions should be put in place if freedom camping was allowed.

Q3B. How supportive or unsupportive are you of freedom camping being allowed in some areas of Auckland?

Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not supportive at all', and 5 is 'very supportive'.



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4184.

Just under half of panellists (46%) were supportive of freedom camping being allowed in some areas of Auckland, with 21% being very supportive. A quarter (26%) were not supportive of this, with 11% being not supportive at all.

Men were more likely than women to support freedom camping being allowed in some areas (51% vs. 42%), as were those living in Rodney (57%). European panellists were more likely to be supportive of freedom camping being allowed (47%), while Asian panellists were less likely (31%).

Q3C. What are the main benefits, if any, of allowing freedom camping in some parts of the Auckland region?

A third of panellists said that allowing freedom camping in some parts of the Auckland region would encourage tourism and be good for the economy (34%), and a quarter mentioned affordability, with freedom camping offering a cheaper alternative to campgrounds, and being good for young travellers and families (24%).

Some mentioned enjoying nature away from crowds (18%), and that it gave access to everyone, catered for more, and was safe and flexible (16%). A few said there were no benefits to allowing freedom camping in the Auckland region (14%), while others said there was no harm in allowing it, and that it was their basic right, and the New Zealand way of life (12%).

What are the main benefits, if any, of allowing freedom camping in some parts of the Auckland region?	Number of responses n=500	% of responses
Encourages tourism / good for economy	171	34%
Affordable holiday - free, good for young travellers, families, campgrounds expensive	118	24%
Enjoy nature - environment, away from crowds	92	18%
Access for all - caters for more, safer, flexibility	80	16%
No benefits / only benefits them	70	14%
No harm / basic right / freedom / NZ way of life	60	12%
Restrictions - on the duration of stay, needs to be self-contained, responsible, not in residential areas	26	5%
Designated areas - easier to control / moderate	25	5%
Opportunities to meet new people / community feel / welcoming	14	3%
Chance to be resourceful / have an adventure	13	3%
Don't know / need more info	10	2%
Comments re homeless using the grounds	6	1%
Other	4	1%

Selection of comments

- *"Contribution these people make to our tourism economy. Selling Auckland as a great place to travel to and stay freely."*
- *"Increased tourist trade meaning more revenue for tourist attractions, e.g. museums and for retailers."*
- *"It benefits tourism and enabling NZers to enjoy our country without costing an arm and a leg. I love the idea of going on a holiday without requiring meticulous planning and being exorbitantly expensive."*
- *"Allows tourists and locals a cheap effective holiday experience."*
- *"Access to remote locations where other accommodation is not available. Cheaper form of tourism attractive to some."*
- *"Travellers can access quiet and isolated areas, enjoying New Zealand."*
- *"It allows people to experience the amazing natural landscapes of Auckland and access areas that might not otherwise have amenities."*
- *"Allowing visitors the opportunity to experience and access Auckland's great outdoors"*
- *"Absolutely none. If you allow people to camp for free, they may not appreciate the environment where they are and abuse it. E.g. leave litter around, not use toilets."*
- *"I don't see any benefits from freedom camping. They should pay their way like everybody else who visits NZ."*
- *"It's a great draw card for tourists. It allows flexibility and freedom. It supports the New Zealand culture."*
- *"I don't think the council has the right to tell people where they can and can't camp, but we do have a responsibility to make sure we protect our environment as well as keeping vehicle traffic out of already condensed areas."*

Q3D. Do you have any other comments to make about freedom camping in the Auckland Region?

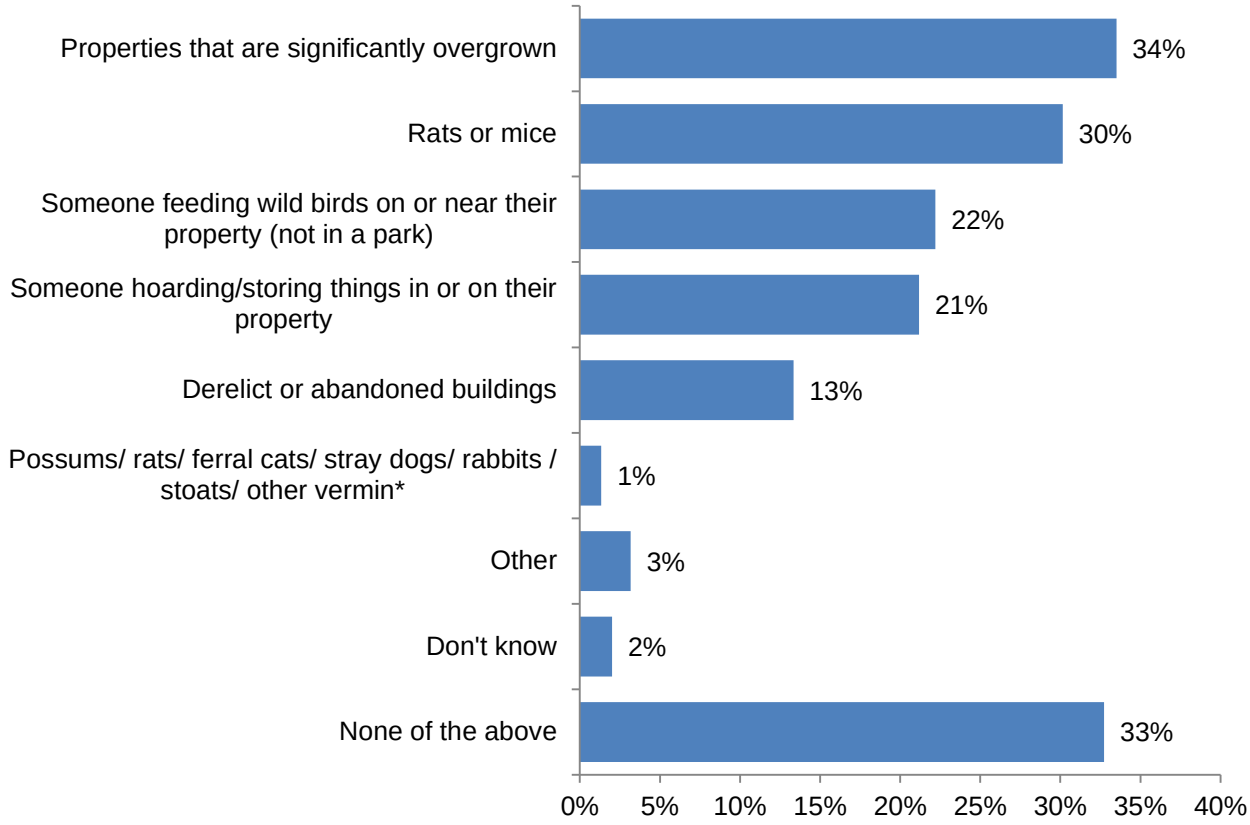
A number of comments regarding freedom camping were generally positive, or mentioned the need to monitor and enforce rules and permits (18%). Some said there were no benefits, that it should be banned, and that people should use registered camping sites (17%). A few said there should be restrictions on the duration of stay and number of campers, and that they shouldn't become semi-permanent, and others had concerns about litter, pollution, homelessness, and the impact on residents (10%).

Do you have any other comments to make about freedom camping in the Auckland Region?	Number of responses n=500	% of responses
General positive - ok as long as tidy, considerate, don't over-regulate	92	18%
Needs to be monitored / enforced / permits	89	18%
No benefits - should be banned, no need for it, use registered camping sites	84	17%
Restrictions on the duration of stay, numbers / can't become semi-permanent	51	10%
Concerns - adds to litter, pollution, homeless, impact on residents	50	10%
Requirement to be in a self-contained vehicle (campervans, facilities on board)	39	8%
Should be encouraged - enjoy nature, environment, part of NZ lifestyle	35	7%
Need official /registered sites with - facilities, small fee, clear signage	34	7%
Provide more - bins, dump stations, toilets	31	6%
Auckland is not appropriate / too congested / should be away from urban areas	28	6%
There will always be few that offend/ shouldn't penalise responsible freedom campers	25	5%
Advertise sites / brochures / apps, networks / educate / clear guidelines	19	4%
Fine waste dumpers	13	3%
Security is a concern	13	3%
Encourages tourism / good for economy	13	3%
As above	10	2%
Affordable holiday - free, good for young travellers, families, campgrounds expensive	7	1%
Utilise current campgrounds / regional parks	4	1%
Comments re dogs - for and against	3	1%
Access for all / caters for more / including cyclists	2	0%
Comments re survey wording, clarity etc.	2	0%
Other	29	6%
Don't know / don't have much experience with this topic	10	2%

Selection of comments
• *"As long as freedom campers follow bylaws and keep the environment safe and tidy, they should be tolerated in certain designated areas, preferably near rubbish collection and toilet areas."* • *"Areas identified which are particularly dog friendly would be great. My experience is that freedom campers spend money in areas that are freedom camper friendly. I reiterate that the public spaces belong to all New Zealander's and they have paid for them via there rates and taxes. Restrictions on freedom camping should not be in place because it is inconvenient to the local councils. Think about a season pass for camping in the Auckland area, the money raised can be used to upgrade the facilities in those areas."* • *"As long as they don't stay too long and look after the area they are staying at I think freedom camping is a great way to see our beautiful country."* • *"Freedom camping if done responsibly is not a problem but there needs to be restrictions placed on it as outlined in question 3A."* • *"A few bad campers ruin it for others. Enforcement and policing should weed out the bad campers."* • *"All campers should use registered camping sites and be controlled so as not to make a mess or damage the nature."* • *"Absolutely opposed to any type of freedom camping. Very few respect the environment."* • *"I think we should allow the good sort of freedom camping (short term freedom camping - taking rubbish with them etc.) and try to minimise the bad sort (staying for extended periods and leaving the area in a mess)."* • *"I think that freedom camping is something that requires a lot of individual responsibility on behalf of the campers. I think making it legal may open up problems such as littering and human waste disposal in residential areas."*

4.3 Private property maintenance

Q4A. In the past year, have you experienced any of the following in your local area?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4185. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Around a third of panellists (34%) had experienced significantly overgrown properties in their local area in the past year. Some had experienced rats and/or mice (30%), someone feeding wild birds on or near their property (22%), or someone hoarding / storing things in or on their property (21%). A few had also experienced derelict or abandoned building in their local area in the last year (13%).

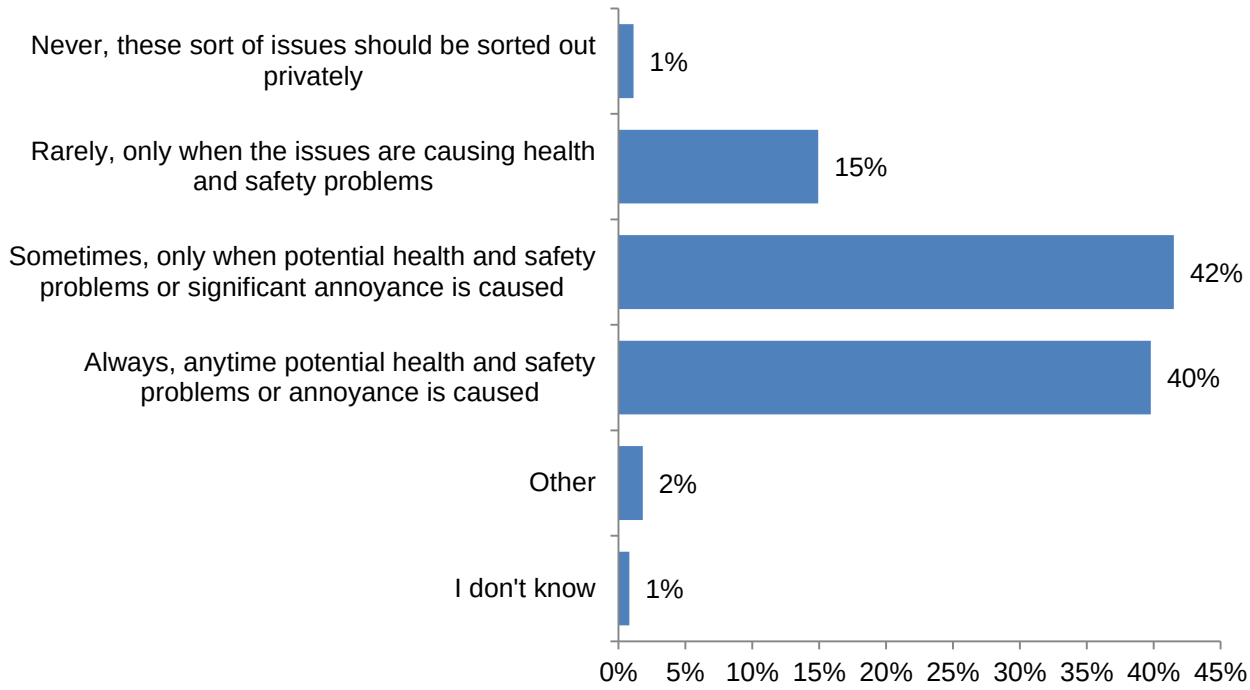
Māori and Pacific Peoples were more likely to have experienced someone hoarding / storing things in or on their property (31% and 36%), and Pacific Peoples were more likely to have experienced derelict or abandoned buildings (23%).

There were a few differences between those living in different local board areas:

- Those in Albert-Eden were more likely to have experienced rats and/or mice (38%).
- Those in Mangere-Otahuhu were more likely to have experienced someone hoarding / storing things on or in their property (35%).
- Those living in Papatoetoe were more likely to have experienced significantly overgrown properties (48%).
- Those living in Waitākere Ranges were more likely to have experienced rats and/or mice (43%), and someone feeding wild birds on or near their property (34%).
- Those living in Waitematā were more likely have experienced derelict or abandoned buildings (20%).

- Those living in Whau were more likely have experienced derelict or abandoned buildings (21%), and someone feeding wild birds on or near their property (38%).

Q4B. To what extent do you think the council should intervene and act on complaints about private properties that cause nuisances (like those listed above)?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4184.

A number of panellists thought the council should sometimes (42%) or always (40%) intervene and act on complaints about private properties that cause nuisances. A few (15%) thought they should rarely intervene.

Younger panellists were more likely to think the council should intervene sometimes (50% of those aged between 15 and 44) while older panellists were more likely to think they should intervene always (46% of those aged 55 and older).Asian and Pacific Peoples were more likely to think the council should never intervene (3% and 4%).

Those living in Puketāpapa were more likely to think the council should never intervene (5%), and those living in Waiheke were more likely to think they should rarely intervene (35%). On the other hand, those in Ōtara-Papatoetoe were more likely to think they should always intervene and act on complaints about private properties that cause nuisances (59%).

Q4C. Do you have any other comments to make about private property maintenance?

Many comments regarding private property maintenance mentioned stricter regulations, fines, and immediate action (26%), while other said action should only be taken if health and safety was a concern (21%). Some said the council needs to take more action, mow berms, eradicate pests, maintain their land, and deal with waste appropriately (19%). A few said that owners should be contacted, encouraged, and helped, as problems such as hoarding can be a psychological issue (18%).

Do you have any other comments to make about private property maintenance?	Number of responses n=500	% of responses
Stricter regulations / fines / immediate action	131	26%
Only take action if health / safety is a concern	105	21%
Council needs to take more action - mow berms, pest eradication, maintain their land, inorganic,waste	93	19%
Owners should be contacted / encouraged / helped / hoarding can be psychological issue	89	18%
Private property is the owners concern	38	8%
Less bureaucracy / no nanny state	36	7%
Bird feeding - encourages natives	28	6%
Poor maintenance devalues the area	26	5%
Footpath / signs obstructed by greenery is an issue	22	4%
Landlords need to take more responsibility	21	4%
Tenants need to take more responsibility	15	3%
Only a select few are a problem	14	3%
Housing New Zealand properties are the worst offender	9	2%
Higher density requires more service	5	1%
Other	19	4%

Selection of comments

- *"Council could do more to encourage consideration for neighbours - especially bass noise from music given the outdoor lifestyle favoured by Aucklanders"*
- *"Any rules related to this need to be clear and followed up by consistent and regular enforcement by Council and other agencies. Discretionary enforcement always leads to uncertainty with individual pushing the boundaries of tolerance."*
- *"Council should act in these circumstances in fairness to neighbours and other local residents."*
- *"Health and Safety issues need to be addressed promptly."*
- *"Health and safety is a public issue and therefore affects all of us which means the council should step in. They should also take any complaint seriously and act quickly and effectively before the situation worsens. Especially in the case of vermin or dangerous situations."*
- *"As long as it isn't a health issue or attracting vermin the council shouldn't get involved."*
- *"Council provided inorganic collections are essential to keeping suburbs free of*

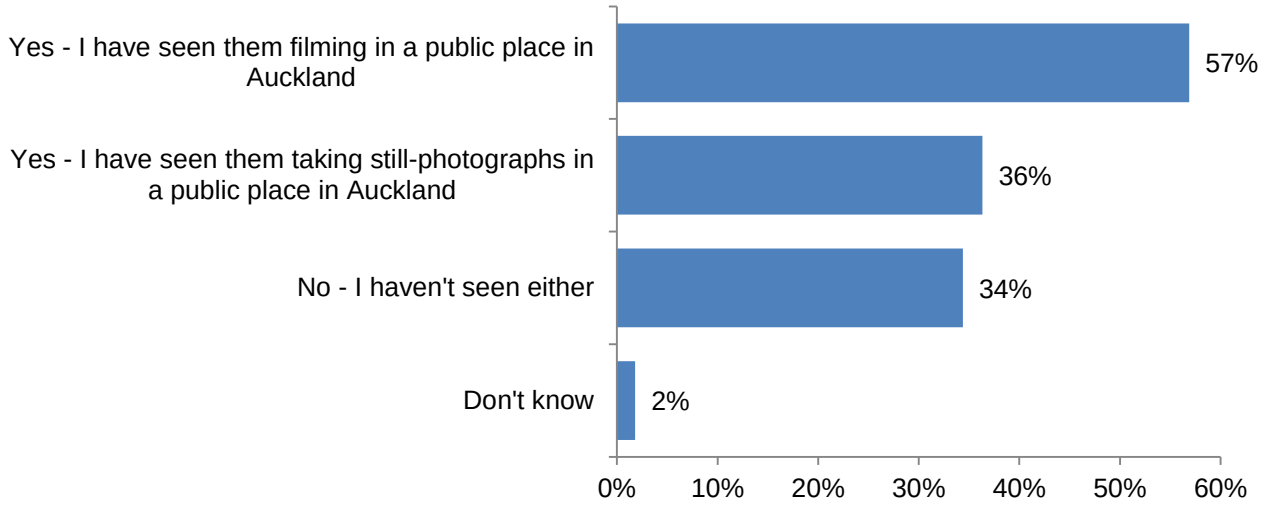
debris."

- *"Auckland Council does not maintain our reserves. Weeds penetrates my property."*
- *"Any property with health issues or dangerous materials on them require some sort of notification to the owner. If that is unsuccessful then more forceful interventions may be necessary e.g. council or police."*
- *"Council should make every attempt to get the property owner to clean up or take action to resolve further issues."*

4.4 Filming and photography in public places

Q5A. In the past year, have you seen professionals or students filming or taking still-photographs in a public place in Auckland?

For example, on a street, footpath, park or beach or similar area.



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=4185. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

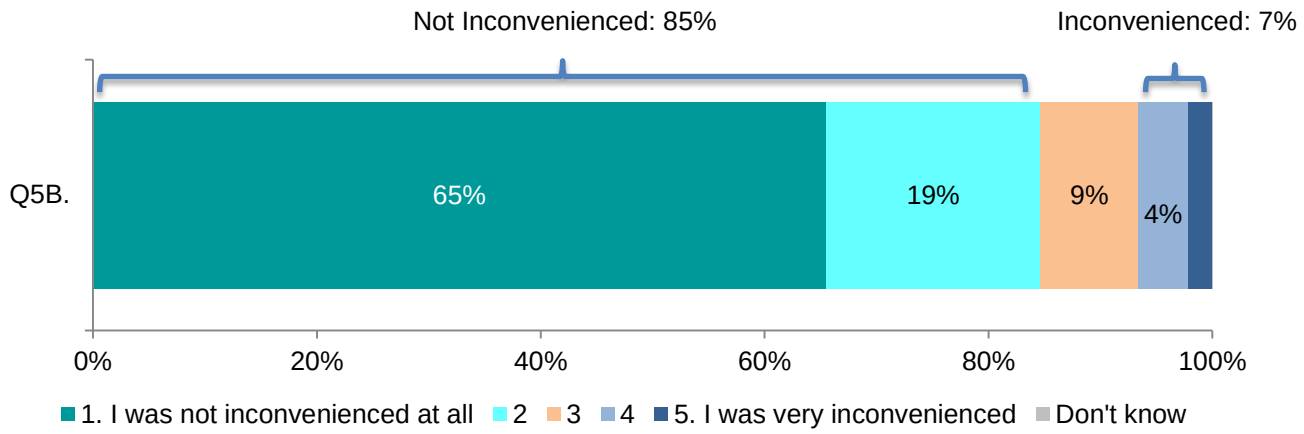
Over half of panellists had seen professionals and/or students filming in public places in Auckland (57%), and over a third had seen them taking still photographs (36%). A third had not seen either (34%).

Younger panellists were more likely to have seen both filming and still photography in public places than older panellists (66% aged between 15 and 34 have seen filming, and 48% have seen still photography).

Those living in Albert-Eden (67%), Devonport-Takapuna (71%), Orākei (67%), and Waitematā (80%) were more likely to have seen filming, those in Orākei (43%) and Waitematā (48%) were also more likely to have seen still photography. On the other hand, those in Hibiscus and Bays (45%), Howick (46%), Manurewa (51%), Ōtara-Papatoetoe (53%), and Papakura (58%) were less likely to have seen either.

Q5B. In general, how much did the filming you saw inconvenience you?

Please rate on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means 'I was not inconvenienced at all' and 5 means 'I was very inconvenienced'.



Base: Panellists who had seen filming. n=2381.

Most panellists who had seen filming (85%) were not inconvenienced, with 65% not at all inconvenienced. Only a few (7%) felt inconvenienced by the filming they saw, with 2% very inconvenienced.

Q5C. What about the filming inconvenienced you?

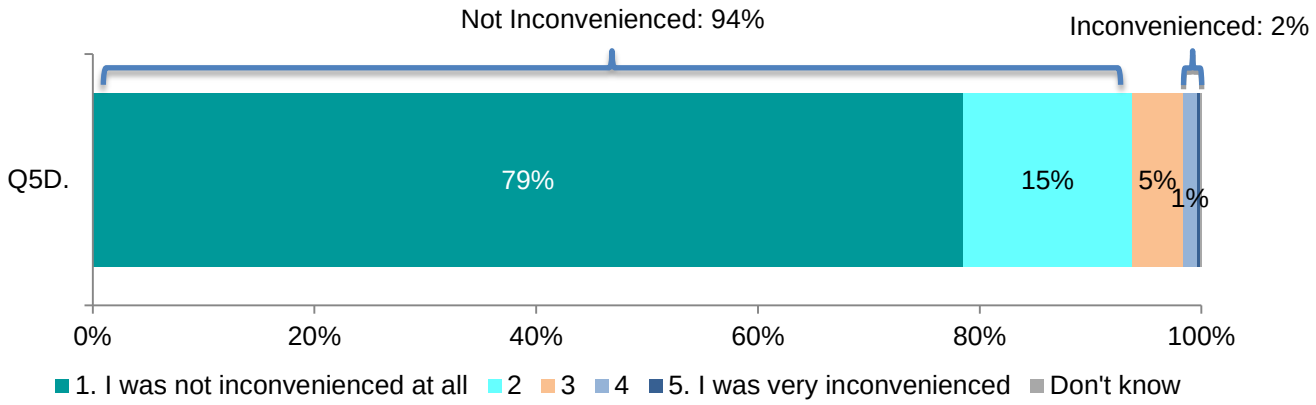
Among those who were inconvenienced by filming they saw, over a third said it limited their access to a public area (36%), and over a quarter said it blocked parking that wasn't being used, or that it used all car parks (29%). Some said that trucks and equipment blocked access and/or caused traffic congestion (19%), that they were uncomfortable with it and had concerns regarding privacy (17%), and/or that they encountered rude, obtrusive people (14%). A few said there were road closures (13%), that it made them wait and therefore be late (10%), and that it impacted their street, with some having to move their cars (10%).

What about the filming inconvenienced you?	Number of responses n=145	% of responses
Limited my access to a public area in general	52	36%
Blocking parking that wasn't being used / using all carparks	42	29%
Trucks / equipment blocking access	28	19%
Traffic congestion	27	19%
Privacy / uncomfortable	24	17%
Encountering rude / obtrusive people	20	14%
Road closure	19	13%
Made me late / had to wait	15	10%
Impacted on my street/ had to move car etc.	14	10%
Noise	7	5%
Not advertised / unexpected	7	5%
Other	4	3%

Selection of comments
• *"Lack of access caused by the support vehicles and crews used during the filming."* • *"The company was filming a television programme where I wanted to walk and I was asked to move away."* • *"I could not use the beach or park where it was taking place."* • *"Not being allowed to walk on the beach, through carparks, along streets."* • *"Blocking parking and access to normal places of public use."* • *"Blocking pathways, blocking roads, taking up parking."* • *"Parked trucks used for filming along Ponsonby Rd taking up to much room."* • *"Trucks, wiring and equipment blocking the footpath."* • *"Traffic and congestion around the area."* • *"Traffic delays, parking difficulties. Access to property restricted."* • *"They do not care about your privacy and take up so much space."* • *"I was annoyed at the invasion of privacy."* • *"Filming often takes place on Narrow Neck beach. TV crews act as if they own the beach."* • *"Streets blocked with cars and trucks and equipment. Film crews rude and nasty. The crews think they own the area, so cone it off to PREVENT access!"* • *"Road closure. Uncooperative attitude."* • *"Road closures and no parking as all taken by film trucks, noise, bad language and litter."* • *"I could not drive home until some filming had stopped."* • *"Couldn't walk where I was wanting to go. Had to wait for 15 minutes while they finished filming to get past."* • *"They shut my road off! Eventually I was allowed through to access my garage."*

Q5D. In general, how much did the still-photography you saw inconvenience you?

Please rate on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means 'I was not inconvenienced at all' and 5 means 'I was very inconvenienced'.



Base: Panellists who had seen still photography. n=1522.

Almost all panellists (94%) who had seen professionals or students taking still photographs in public places were not inconvenienced, with 79% not at all inconvenienced. Very few (2%) felt inconvenienced by the photography they saw.

Q5E. What about the still-photography inconvenienced you?

Very few panellists (15) responded to this question, and the sample size was too small for analysis. Below are a selection of the comments made:

Selection of comments
• *"Prevented us from freely seeing and enjoying the Winter Gardens in the Domain."* • *"My image was included in published photo without permission."* • *"I was annoyed at the invasion of privacy."* • *"Trucks parked and equipment taking up parking spaces and footpath room."* • *"Taking up a space we wanted to use."*

Q5F. Do you have any other comments to make about the use of public places for filming or still photography in Auckland?

Many comments regarding the use of public places for filming or still photography said it was not a problem as long as it considered others and did not impact their health, safety, and access (31%), and/or that it was not an issue (29%). Some said it should be encouraged (11%), while others said a permit should be required if used for commercial purposes, and/or that they should be charged (10%).

Do you have any other comments to make about the use of public places for filming or still photography in Auckland?	Number of responses n=500	% of responses
As long as not impacting health /safety /access of others /considerate of others	155	31%
No problem / not an issue	145	29%
Should be encouraged	53	11%
Permit required if commercial use/ should be charged	52	10%
Privacy issues / should ask for permission	42	8%
Good for tourism / showcase city	30	6%
Fines for disruption - traffic, access, litter	19	4%
Need more notice / signs should inform public	16	3%
Public space is for public use / should not be restricted by filming	14	3%
Should not be encouraged	7	1%
No comment	52	10%
Other	14	3%

Selection of comments

- *"As long as it doesn't intrude on other users, it is fine."*
- *"As long as they are not causing damage to the environment and they leave the place as they found it then I don't have a problem with this."*
- *"Activities that would pose safety/health concerns (like using street, night filming near residences, etc.) should not be allowed without permission and adherence to standards that would protect/not inconvenience everyone."*
- *"I believe seeing these things make our day to day life in Auckland more interesting. It's fun to watch other people being creative."*
- *"As long as there are no traces left, it's fine. We should encourage creativity."*
- *"As long as these aren't inconveniencing the public I see it as a positive thing and should be encouraged."*
- *"It is a good thing, provided the users have prior permission."*
- *"If the filming does not materially interfere with a person's ability to access that public space, it should be permitted without limit. If an area will be closed off during the filming, a licence or permit should be obtained."*
- *"I am not opposed as long as people who live and work nearby are not affected or are properly compensated and agree to the filming. No one should ever be filmed without their consent."*

4.5 Other comments

Q6E. Do you have any comments to make about this survey or the use of public spaces in general?

When asked if they had any other comments about the survey or use of public spaces in general, panellists mentioned balancing the use of shared public spaces, with access for all (18%), and many were generally positive (16%). Some said rules and fines needed to be monitored and enforced (12%), while others said they shouldn't over regulate, that it was common sense, and that there should be less bureaucracy (11%). A few mentioned maintenance and amenities, attention to cleanliness, toilets, litter, signage, lighting, and bins (10%).

Do you have any comments to make about this survey or the use of public spaces in general?	Number of responses n=500	% of responses
Balance the use of shared public spaces / access for all	88	18%
General positive / keep up good work	78	16%
Rules need monitored / enforced / fines - littering, noise, freedom camping	62	12%
Don't over regulate / common sense / less bureaucracy	55	11%
Maintenance / amenities - cleanliness, toilets, litter, signage, lighting, bins	50	10%
Comments regarding survey - is feedback used, good survey, would like to see results	42	8%
General public need to take more responsibility - waste, noise	36	7%
More public spaces / parks, reserves /community gardens	34	7%
Dogs - no off leash, pick up droppings, enforce rules at beaches	25	5%
Protect native trees /plant more trees /remove pest plants	16	3%
Comments regarding rates, grass berms	14	3%
Noise restrictions in public places - speakers	12	2%
More dog friendly spaces	10	2%
No smoking in public areas	5	1%
No comment	83	17%
Other	25	5%

Selection of comments

- *"I feel everyone should have access to all public places as long as they are considerate of others and the environment. "*
- *"An essential role of the council is maintaining common use areas for the good of the population. There must be flexibility in the rules to allow a vibrant interesting city that can shift with the times and needs of peoples."*
- *"I think Public spaces should be kept and available for use by anyone as long as they are no abusing the privilege."*
- *"I love Auckland's public spaces, I think there are well maintain and used."*
- *"I love our public spaces in Auckland and love seeing them enjoyed by so many people. A great use of our rate funds."*
- *"I love our public spaces. I think, in general, the Council do a great job providing*

and maintaining these and I'm grateful to live in a city with so much to offer in this regard."

- *"Our public spaces are very valuable and will become more so with increasing population density."*
- *"I think the balance is just about spot-on. Perhaps more security at these places would be welcome. Some places you just would not go to after dark."*
- *"Happy to share our public spaces as long as there are reasonable rules and restrictions."*
- *"I love our public spaces and want as many people as possible to enjoy them. This happens best when reasonable and clearly signposted conditions are in place - and monitored at least semi-regularly. It is a fine balance to maintain so that the few who abuse the public spaces do not mean that the many respectful users are disadvantaged."*
- *"Public is the key word here. As long as others are not inconvenienced, I can see no issue with any of the activities raised in this survey. Council should be very cautious about petty regulations attempting to restrict the public use of public spaces."*
- *Public spaces are for all to enjoy. Don't make too many rules for people, some common sense needs to be used. Good signs about treating public spaces like your own home may help change some attitudes."*
- *"As long as people are sensible and don't break the law public places are there to be used by the public. Don't over regulate."*
- *"I think the council does a good job maintaining public spaces, but more could be done regarding litter and tipping."*
- *"Keep public spaces free and available to the public. Make sure council keeps up with scheduled maintenance, e.g. mowing, and emptying bins."*
- *"I think there should be more public toilets and clean ones too."*

Appendix II Respondent profile

	All respondents n=4185	Percentages (%) n=4185	Statistics NZ Percentages 2013 census data
Gender			
Female	2409	58%	51%
Male	1753	42%	49%
Prefer not to say/Unknown	23	1%	
Age			
15-24 years	108	3%	19%
25-34 years	324	8%	18%
35-44 years	803	19%	18%
45-54 years	878	21%	18%
55-64 years	869	21%	13%
65-74 years	876	21%	9%
75+ years	255	6%	6%
Prefer not to say/Unknown	72	2%	
Ethnicity *(Multiple response)*			
European	3716	89%	56%
Māori	262	6%	10%
Pacific Peoples	151	4%	14%
Asian	231	6%	18%
Middle Eastern, Latin American, African	44	1%	2%
Other	4	0.1%	1%
Unknown	62	1%	
Local Board			
Albert-Eden	337	8%	7%
Devonport-Takapuna	228	5%	4%
Franklin	206	5%	5%
Great Barrier	4	0.1%	0.1%
Henderson-Massey	251	6%	8%
Hibiscus and Bays	314	8%	6%
Howick	270	6%	9%
Kaipātiki	282	7%	6%
Mangere-Otahuhu	101	2%	5%
Manurewa	118	3%	6%
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	167	4%	5%
Orākei	318	8%	6%
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	75	2%	5%
Papakura	76	2%	3%
Puketāpapa	111	3%	4%
Rodney	270	6%	4%
Upper Harbour	140	3%	4%
Waiheke	62	1%	1%
Waitākere Ranges	232	6%	3%
Waitematā	417	10%	6%
Whau	192	5%	5%
Other/Unknown	14	0.3%	-

Demographics from People's Panel registration information