



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES: DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES (OVERNIGHT CAMPING – SELF CONTAINED VEHICLES)

Originated Date:	Adopted on 16 March 2015 – Min. No: 80/15 (as Policy 77 – Overnight Camping – Self Contained Vehicles)
Amended Date/s:	Reviewed on 21 August 2017 - Min. No. 262/17 Reviewed 14 December 2020 – Min. No. 423/20 Amended 09 December 2024 – Min. No. 24/0412
Applicable Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i> <i>Economic Regulator Act 2009</i> National Competition Policy
Objective	To assist Council to plan, develop and manage appropriate facilities to cater for recreational vehicles
Administration:	Community and Development
Review Cycle/Date:	Every 4 years. Next review 2028.

1. DEFINITIONS

Recreation vehicle

A vehicle that is fully self-contained with respect to shower, toilet, washing, cooking and sleeping facilities and must have holding tanks for all toilet waste and sullage/grey water sufficient for at least 48 hours use by the occupants.

Free Overnight Rest Areas

The following areas in the Northern Midlands:

- Bishopsbourne Recreation Ground, Bishopsbourne;
- Blackburn Park, Campbell Town;
- Cressy Recreation Ground, Cressy;
- Falls Park, Evandale (Monday – Friday)
- Honeysuckle Banks, Evandale (November – April).

2. PERMITS

A) PERMIT WORDING

All vehicles using a Northern Midlands Council Free Overnight Rest Area must hold a permit.

Permits must include the following details:

- Council details;
- Permit Number;
- Type of vehicles permit applies to;
- Vehicle Registration Number;
- Vehicle Description;
- Length of stay permitted – commencement and expiry dates of permit;
- Name and signature of authorised officer;
- Date of issue;



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

- Name and signature of permit holder plus any specific council conditions that need to be acknowledged by the holder.

An example permit is annexed to this Policy and marked “A”.

B) PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

These will include:

- Length of stay permitted;
- Details of where permit should be displayed;
- Details of what the permit actually applies to e.g. a fully self-contained RV;
- Any other conditions;
- Details of any penalties.

3. SIGNAGE

Signage must be displayed at the Free Overnight Rest Areas including the following information:-

- Indicate that a permit is required;
- Provide directions where to obtain the permit;
- Indicate length of stay permitted;
- Advise permit or permit number should be displayed on vehicle dashboard;
- Advise of any additional conditions that apply;
- Detail enforcement measures.

An example of signage wording is annexed to this Policy and marked “B”.

4. COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY

For the provision of overnight self-contained RV camping services, councils must appropriately apply the National Competition Policy and the principles of competitive neutrality. The objective of the competitive neutrality principles is to ensure that government bodies (including Local Government bodies) conducting a business within a competitive market operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership i.e. there must be a ‘level playing field’.

Competitive neutrality principles apply to significant government business activities undertaken by Local Government under the broad range of council functions. The key consideration in defining a significant business activity (SBA) under the National Competition Policy, is the *impact of the services on the actual or potential market* - not the share of a council’s revenue arising from, nor expenditure committed to, that activity. The most appropriate model of competitive neutrality to apply to the operation of camping service facilities is the ‘full cost attribution’ model.

Full cost attribution requires councils to identify all costs of providing a significant business activity as if it were a stand-alone business that does not enjoy any subsidisation derived from its public or council ownership. This would therefore include some costs that a council does not *actually* incur, but which private businesses do incur in the provision of the same service, such as (where applicable) insurance, rates and taxes. Council has completed a ‘Full Cost Attribution Checklist’ to the implementation of Free Overnight Rest Areas.

5. OVERFLOW PLANNING

It is important to ensure adequate planning is in place to develop appropriate overflow facilities for special events, such as rallies and concerts, and to meet peak period demand.

The following sites have been recognised as overflow facilities for the listed events:

- Morven Park, Evandale – during the annual Evandale Village Fair.



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

6. DUMP STATIONS

The Northern Midlands Council has three free Dump Stations within the municipality:

- King Street Oval, Campbell Town
- Lake Leake Camp Area, Lake Leake
- Longford Riverside Caravan Park, Longford
- Cressy Recreation Ground, Cressy

There is also a Dump Station located at the Ross Caravan Park, Ross. The lessee of this facility may apply charges for use of this dump station by campers who are not making use of the caravan park.

7. REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed every four years or earlier as needed.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Policy has been adopted from the model policy guidelines provided by the Local Government Association of Tasmania.



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

ANNEXURE A

NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL PERMISSION FOR OVERNIGHT STOP AREA

Bishopsbourne Recreation Ground, Bishopsbourne;
Blackburn Park, Campbell Town;
Cressy Recreation Ground, Cressy;
Falls Park, Evandale (Monday – Friday);
Honeysuckle Banks, Evandale (November – April).
**delete those not applicable*

FULLY SELF CONTAINED VEHICLE

This vehicle is authorised to camp within the [details of location] for the period _____, subject to the terms and conditions detailed on the reverse of the permit.

Vehicle Registration Number	Vehicle Description
.....
Commencement Date of Permit	Expiry Date of Permit
.....

Signature of Authorised Officer:	Signed by Permit Holder:
.....	This permit acknowledges that non-compliance with the conditions of this permit is an offence that may be prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of [relevant By-Law] and other environmental and health regulations.
Name:	Name:
.....
Date of issue:	Signature:
.....

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. This permit is valid for the dates shown.
2. This permit **or the permit number** must be displayed prominently on the vehicle dashboard, and visible from the front left side of the vehicle.
3. This permit applies only to a vehicle which is self contained with respect to shower, toilet, washing, cooking and sleeping facilities, with holding tanks for all toilet waste and sullage/grey water sufficient for 48 hours.
4. Discharge of liquid in any waste form is prohibited within the designated overnight stop area. PENALTY: A fine of 2 penalty units under Litter Act 2007.



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

ANNEXURE B

WELCOME TO [INSERT PARK] REST AREA

FULLY SELF-CONTAINED VEHICLES ONLY

This area is regulated by Northern Midlands Council

The following conditions apply:-

- A permit must be obtained to park in this area overnight. Permits are available from www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au or 13 Smith Street, Longford during business hours
- Your permit or permit number must be displayed prominently on the vehicle dashboard and visible from the front left side of the vehicle;
- Maximum permitted stopover is 48 hours;
- The following conditions apply to use of this site:
 - All rubbish and other waste is to be removed on departure;
 - Campfires are not permitted;
 - Hanging of clothes, bedding or similar items outside your RV is not permitted;
 - Pets must be controlled and tethered at all times;
 - Use of generators between 6:00pm and 9:00am, and, in excess of 2 consecutive hours is prohibited;
- Only a vehicle which is self contained with respect to shower, toilet, washing, cooking and sleeping facilities, with holding tanks for all toilet waste and sullage/grey water sufficient for 48 hours.
- Discharge of liquid in any waste form is prohibited within the designated overnight stop area. PENALTY: A fine of \$404 (two penalty units) under the Litter Act 2007.
- Infringement notices will be issued for offences (listed).

By Order
General Manager

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY