Camping, Caravanning & Recreational Vehicle Policy

Strategic Reference	**Supporting Infrastructure** *Priority Area 2 – Welcoming and Accessible Environments* Action 4.2.4 – Council parks, gardens, green spaces and town entry statements are maintained and improved, creating welcoming and aesthetically pleasing public places.
File reference	AR23/18042
Responsibility	Roads & Infrastructure Department
Revision Number	1
Effective date	July 2026
Last revised date	N/A
Minutes reference	216/26
Next review date	July 20292029
Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999 Residential Parks Act 2007
Related Policies	Enforcement Policy Order Making Policy
Related Documents	Council By-law No. 3 – Local Government Land Community Land Management Plan (PR12/1789) Development Act 1993 – Minister's Specification: Fire Safety Requirements in Caravan Parks and Residential Parks

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and consistent approach to the management and operation of both paid and unpaid campgrounds, recreational vehicle (RV) parks and caravan park. It seeks to ensure visitor safety, protect the natural environment and support compliance with relevant legislation and Council standards.

This policy applies to all Council staff, contractors and users of Council-managed camping facilities. It provides guidance to Council in identifying suitable land for camping, caravanning and RV use, as well as in determining appropriate fees and charges.

2. Principles

Council will apply the following principles to guide its decision making and consistent management of camping, caravanning and RV activities across the district:

2.1 Responsible and lawful use of public land

Council will manage camping and RV use of public land to ensure it remains available for its intended recreational purpose and accessible to the broader community. Long-term or permanent occupation of Council-managed camping areas will not be permitted unless expressly authorised (in writing, and for no longer than five [5] days), and time limits will be actively monitored and enforced.

2.2 Safety, security and risk management

Camping and RV activities will be managed in a manner that minimises risk to campers, staff, nearby residents and the wider community. This includes managing risks associated with fire safety, waste disposal, traffic and pedestrian movement, overcrowding, environmental damage, anti-social and unsafe behaviour.

2.3 Management of inappropriate and unlawful behaviour

Council will not tolerate unlawful activity, anti-social behaviour or conduct that threatens the safety, wellbeing or amenity of others within camping areas. Authorised officers, in conjunction with South Australian Police, will respond to such behaviour in accordance with legislation and Council by-laws, including issuing directions, infringement notices or exclusion orders where necessary.

2.4 Support for local economic activity

Council recognises the contribution that all forms of tourism provide to the local economy. Camping arrangements will be managed to support local businesses and commercial accommodation providers.

2.5 Protection of community amenity

Council will manage camping and RV activities to minimise impacts on nearby residents, businesses and other users of public land. Noise, waste management, parking, behaviour and duration of stay will be regulated and maintained by authorised officers to maintain the amenity, safety and enjoyment of public spaces.

2.6 Consistent enforcement and compliance

All decisions and actions undertaken under this policy will be consistent with relevant legislation, regulations and Council by-laws. Where requirements are unclear, authorised officers will apply the intent and principles of this policy to ensure fair, consistent and transparent outcomes.

2.7 Education supported by proportionate enforcement

Council will adopt an education-first approach by providing clear information to visitors about expected behaviour, length-of-stay limits and permitted activities. Where education and engagement do not achieve compliance, proportionate enforcement action will be taken to protect public land and community interests.

3. Definitions

"Authorised Officer" means a Council employee (not an Elected Member), appointed in writing by the Chief Executive Officer, to exercise legislative powers.

"Camp" includes setting up or allowing a tent, sleeping bag, caravan, motor home, RV or similar structure to remain on land of the purpose of overnight stay, whether or not a person is present or sleeps on the land.

"Campground" means any land or premises set aside, designated, approved or managed for temporary overnight camping by members of the public.

"Caravan Park" means a developed camping and accommodation facility that provides designated sites for caravans, RVs, tents and other temporary accommodation, and includes shared infrastructure and amenities.

"Recreational Vehicle" (RV) means a self-contained vehicle with shower, toilet, washing, cooking and sleeping facilities plus holding tanks for all waste and sullage water sufficient for at least 48 hours, to be disposed of at an authorised dump point.

4. Policy Statement

RV Friendly Townships

Council aims to provide RV Friendly status to townships within the district, where feasible. Day-use areas will be established for vehicles towing trailers or caravans, as well as RVs, allowing access to township services without overnight stays. These areas will not require a fee once established.

Council may also identify sites where overnight stays are permitted, specifically for RVs, with charges based on the level of facilities provided.

All RV locations will be clearly identified with signage outlining rules and regulations.

Facilities

Campgrounds will be inspected regularly to ensure safety and cleanliness, with maintenance logs maintained for compliance. Adequate bins will be provided and correct usage will be expected.

Council may include facilities such as toilets, showers, dump points and water at campgrounds. Emergency procedures will be displayed at entry points. Fire safety measures (including extinguishers and signage) will be maintained at all times. Accessibility features will be provided wherever feasible. Where required, sites will be delineated to improve fire safety.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted only where designated by Council and must comply with all fire safety requirements and conditions. The following provisions apply:

- Campfire may only be lit within Council-approved constructed concrete fire pads or purpose-built fireplaces provided within the caravan park precinct. Lighting fires directly on the ground or in non-approved fire pits or structures is strictly prohibited.
- Campfires must not be lit or used on days declared as a Total Fire Ban.

- Campfires must not be left unattended and kept to a safe, manageable size; ensuring they are fully extinguished after use.
- The collection of firewood from within the caravan park and swimming pool precinct is prohibited.

Pets

Pets (including accredited assistance animals) must be kept under effective control at all times within campgroundsand caravan parks. Where required, pets must be restrained by a lead, tether, enclosure or carrier appropriate to the animal. Owners are responsible for ensuring pets are well-behaved and do not cause nuisance, harm or distress to other guests, staff or wildlife. All pet waste must be promptly cleaned up and disposed of in designated bins. Pets are not permitted in communal facilities including kitchens, bathrooms and shared indoor areas (with the exception of accredited assistance animals) unless signage indicates otherwise. Council reserves the right to require the removal of any pet that is aggressive, uncontrolled or poses a risk to safety, amenity or environmental values.

Behaviour

Council expects all visitors to behave in a respectful and lawful manner at all times. Anti-social, disruptive or offensive behaviour, including excessing noise, intimidation, harassment or damage to property, will not be tolerated. The consumption of alcohol must be responsible and in accordance with all applicable laws and any site-specific restrictions. Illegal drugs are strictly prohibited. Any behaviour associated with alcohol or illegal drug use that compromises the safety, amenity or enjoyment of others, or places staff, visitors or the environment at risk, may result in enforcement action (including warnings, fines, eviction from the site or referral to police, where appropriate).

Mooring

Mooring of boats or watercraft is permitted only in designated areas approved by Council. Mooring facilities will be listed on Council's website. All users must follow the instructions displayed on Council-installed signage and adhere to the rules and conditions outlined at each location. Vessels must comply with all relevant waterway safety regulations and must not obstruct access points, swimming zones or emergency routes. Owners are responsible for securing vessels to prevent hazards or environmental damage and may moor for up to 48 hours. Provisions of this clause do not apply to private mooring (ie. Wellington East).

Duration of stays

Where Council-installed signage specifies a camping duration time limit, that limit applies. In the absence of such signage, camping must not exceed two (2) weeks unless prior written approval has been granted by the Chief Executive Officer. Requests for extended stays must be submitted in writing and approved by the Chief Executive Officer before the commencement of the stay.

Nature of Accommodation

Council will determine the type of accommodation permitted at each site. Areas may be designated for specific forms of stay only (eg. self-contained RVs and caravans), and other forms will not be allowed. This will be clearly indicated with signage.

Council may also establish temporary accommodation sites during major local events (where visitor numbers may/will exceed existing capacity).

Fees & Charges

Where payment is required (as outlined on the applicable Council-installed signage), all users are responsible for following the instructions provided at the site regarding payment and conditions of use.

Access to powered sites available at the Coonalpyn Caravan Park is available through a PayWave-enabled cashless transaction system. Upon successful payment, power will be supplied to the designated site until 11:00am the following calendar day. Payment of this fee is not required to stay at the site, only to use the power supply. Users must also comply with any conditions displayed on the PayWave device and set by Council.

Fees and charges are reviewed annually, published on official platforms, and listed in Council's Schedule of Fees & Charges.

Enforcement

Council staff and authorised officers are responsible for enforcing this policy. Non-compliance may result in penalties (including fines, removal from the premises and prohibition from future bookings). Quiet hours will be enforced and disruptive or illegal activities will not be tolerated. Signage at each location will clearly state the rules of occupancy. Any person camping in conflict with Council's By-law No. 3 in areas not designated for overnight stays, or mooring in areas not approved by Council, may also face enforcement action.

An authorised officer may, at any reasonable time, enter and inspect a camp on a campground or a mooring site. They may require any person reasonably suspected of camping or mooring in breach of this policy to:

- State their full name and usual place of residence; and
- Provide evidence of identity

An authorised officer may direct any individual to leave a camping reserve, mooring site, or other piece of local government land if the individual is found to be in breach of:

- This policy;
- Any camping or mooring rules set by Council; or
- Conditions stated on signage or PayWave devices installed at the site.

Failure to comply with such a direction may result in enforcement action under the Local Government Act 1999.

For the purposes of inspection, an authorised officer may enter any building, vehicle, watercraft or structure:

- With the consent of its owner or occupier; or

- On the authority of a warrant issued by a Magistrate in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999.

A person must not, without reasonable excuse, refuse, fail to comply, or obstruct an authorised officer in the exercise of these powers.

Council staff are responsible for enforcing this policy. Non-compliance may result in penalties (including fines or removal from the premises). Repeat offenders may be prohibited from future bookings.

5. Availability/Accessibility

This Policy is available for inspection at Council's offices during normal business hours and Council's website and will be emailed to interested parties on request (please lodge request in writing via email to council@coorong.sa.gov.au).

6. Document History

This Policy will be reviewed at least every three (3) years or more frequently if legislation or Council requires.

Version	Adopted	Minute No	Description of change(s)
1	21 July 2026	216/26	New policy