



27 April 2004

Christchurch City Community Plan  
Christchurch City Council  
PO Box 237  
Christchurch

**SUBMISSION FOR**  
**THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN 2004/14**

ORGANISATION	NZ Motor Caravan Association Inc.
CONTACT NAME	Nguyen Trinh Ly Resource Management Co-ordinator
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE	NZ Motor Caravan Association PO Box 72147 PAPAKURA

**Introduction**

Motor caravan tourism is one of the fastest growing recreation activities within NZ. The NZ Motor Caravan Association Inc currently represents 13,310 family groups nationwide who own motorhomes (over 24,800 adults). NZMCA membership has doubled since 1998. It is estimated we represent 75% of NZ private motorhome owners. *There are also currently around 2,500 rental motorhomes available, which are fully booked and therefore on the roads every day during peak periods.*

Our records show the average member spends 70 nights away from home per year and \$47 a day while travelling in their motorhome, *over and above any camp site fees – on food, fuel, supplies, medicines, vehicle repairs and maintenance, tourist attractions or other entertainment.* 13,310 members spending 70 nights away from home and spending \$47 a day, means that our members contribute over \$43 million per year to the economy. We estimate that all motorhome tourists combined contribute over \$80 million to the economy, *not including overnight site fees.* And that figure is growing, as motorhome tourism increases.

NZMCA reinforce members to protect and respect the environment. The association actively promotes self-containment for *Motor caravans* and all members, whether self contained or not, must comply with the NZMCA Code of Conduct.

*Please preview the attached document for 'Motor Caravan Tourism' statistics.*

**1. Specific provisions this submission relates to:**

Volume 2: Community outcomes and Council plan  
Council Activities

City Development, page 35-41

Parks & Open Space, page 80-92

Wastewater, treatment & disposal, page 107-114

**2. NZMCA supports these provision but seeks attention on the following**

We request council to:

Further develop and maintain parks and reserves

*Eg. Rest signs, restriction signs, permitting activity sign*

Recognise motor caravan recreation

Acquire land for public recreation needs

*Eg. Overnight parking for motor caravans*

Improve walkway maintenance

*Eg. For tourist of all age (hand rails, steps etc)*

Improve car parks to cater for more visitors

Provide/facilitate a range of activities

ie. Motor Caravan Activity

Provide access to all forms of transport including Motor Caravans

*Note: some motorhomes are converted buses, up to 12m long*

Ensure roads are safe for all vehicles

Provide and maintain public dump stations for motor caravans

*Note: We give financial assistance for new installation of dump stations that meet NZMCA conditions which council can apply for.*

Support tourism and recreation by allowing independent overnight parking for certificated self-contained vehicles

*We strongly encourage Council to allow certificated self-contained vehicles to stay overnight in the Christchurch City. We would not object to you placing a limit on the number of nights and/or a limit on the number of vehicles allowed to stay at any one time. Council should allow vehicles to stay for at least two nights, as a certificate of self-containment*

*shows independence for a minimum of three days. Signage at the site should clearly display the conditions of stay and we would assist you by publishing the conditions in our Travel Directory.*

### **3. Reasons for request**

The escalating number of motorhomes on the road presents new issues for the local authorities, therefore motorhome travellers must be recognised and to extent catered for (*see back attachment for Motor Caravan Tourism statistics*).

NZMCA actively encourages our members to certify their vans under the NZS 5465:2001, *New Zealand Standard for the Self Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans*. A certificated self-contained motorhome is designed to have no adverse effects on the environment and present no risk to public health. It is designed to completely meet the ablutionary and sanitary needs of the occupants for a minimum of three days without requiring any external services or discharging any waste. Wastewater is collected in tanks and disposed of via a wastewater disposal facility (*called a dump station*), connected to a proper sewerage scheme. By providing accessible and convenient public dump stations *for motor caravans*, the local economy can profit from motor caravan tourist.

Members of our association consist of New Zealanders and overseas tourist. Over 50 percent of our members are over 50 years of age. With more and more recreational and retired motor caravan tourist travelling around NZ, there needs to be sufficient facilities available to accommodate their activity eg public dump stations, rest signs and rest locations.

There maybe campgrounds in the Christchurch City but there are many reasons why camping grounds may not be suitable for motorhome travellers:

- Vehicles can not be accommodated
- Pets are not welcome in many camping grounds
- Remote areas often do not have camping grounds
- There is a lack of privacy at camping grounds or

The cost of the camping ground involves paying for facilities that are not required by the self-contained motorhomes. The reality is that people buy motorhomes for the independence and flexibility – to where they stay overnight.

The members of our association are very fond of Reserves, Parks and other public places in the Christchurch City. As an environmentally friendly association, we reinforce members to comply with local animal control Bylaws, clean disposal of waste, respect restrictions, keeping site clean and abide by NZMCA regulations.

#### 4. Decision Sought

NZMCA would like the council to recognise and facilitate for certificated self-contained motor caravan recreation in the Christchurch City. *At present, Christchurch City Council requires consent before independent 'camping'.*

NZMCA would like to see the Council develop a proactive policy that allows independent overnight parking for certificated self-contained motor caravans in the Christchurch City.

NZMCA hope Council looks favourably on our requests and I look forward to being further involved in the development of Christchurch City Council Community Plan.

#### 5. Hearing

Speak to support this submission:

YES

NO

If there are *any* meetings and events regarding motor caravan matters, please notify us. We may wish to attend.



Nguyen Trinh Ly  
Resource Management Co-ordinator



## MOTOR CARAVAN TOURISM

National membership of NZMCA is currently 13,310 family groups (a total of 24,803 adults) – and has been growing at over 13% per year for the last few years. In 2003 growth topped 19%.

An ever-increasing number of New Zealanders are acting on their attraction to the motorhome lifestyle. In 1990 the NZ Motor Caravan Association's membership numbered just 1,700 nationwide. Our membership has more than doubled since 1998.

Our year 2000 survey showed that on average members use their motorhomes for 70 nights per year. 13,310 motor homes x 70 nights = 931,700 motor caravan nights per year where members will be seeking a pleasant location to park their motorhomes.

There are also about 2,500 rental motorhomes that are fully booked and therefore on the roads every day during peak periods. Private and rentals together make up over 1,704,000 motorhome nights per year and that number is growing, as motorhome tourism becomes more popular.

The average motorhome spends \$47 per day x 1,704,000 motorhome nights = \$80,088,000. Therefore motorhome tourists contribute over \$80 million a year to the economy, while they are travelling over and above camp site fees.

A District will attract more motorhome tourists by having free overnight parking for self contained motorhomes and caravans in some areas, affordable camp site fees in other areas and other motorhome friendly facilities such as public wastewater disposal sites. Attracting more motorhome tourists will give the businesses in that district a bigger part of the \$80 million dollars.

### Statistics as of 2003 to date:

Total NZMCA members:	13,310
Canterbury area average expenditure of van per day	\$48
Number of vans attending Canterbury area rallies	17-142
Total number of Canterbury area rallies	8
Average of Canterbury area rally local expenditure	\$52
Average of <i>nationwide</i> rally local expenditure	\$47
Sum of expenditure from Canterbury area rallies	\$38,292
Sum of total contribution from Canterbury area rallies	\$127,578

*(We collect these statistics from members that attend monthly rallies. These statistics excludes private motor caravan travellers and tourist) Note Canterbury area includes Christchurch City.*

*Prepared by Nguyen Trinh Ly, Resource Management Co-ordinator, 28/04/04*