



# DRAFT

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) FRIENDLY POLICY

SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE  
APRIL 2025



# XXXX.XX DRAFT RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) FRIENDLY POLICY

## Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to balance the interests of free and low-cost campers, caravan park operators, local residents, and the environment by establishing guidelines for sustainable and responsible camping practices within the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

## Policy Statement

The Shire of Ravensthorpe (the Shire) welcomes and actively promotes to attract Recreational Vehicle (RV) travellers and are considered an essential market for the Ravensthorpe visitor destination. The required outcomes of a successful draft RV Friendly policy are to;

1. Actively attract and cater to the RV Caravan and Camping travellers to the Shire and drive repeat visitation to grow the economic return from this market.
2. Identify and evaluate current RV camping sites and facilities, with recommendations to enhance the visitor experience of each site.
3. Address overflow and illegal free camping areas for improved management.
4. To ensure that camping for self-contained recreational vehicles and caravan parks can coexist harmoniously, effective management and regulation strategies are necessary to ensure a vibrant tourism and local business sector.

## Policy Objectives

The objectives of the policy are to generate sustainable economic activity that is line with community wishes from the RV, Caravan and Camping traveller market through:

1. Planning, development and maintenance of Shire RV Parking facilities.
2. Maintaining the Shire's status as an RV-Friendly destination.
3. Facilitating commercial camping and hospitality development in the Shire to enable enhanced options are available for travellers.
4. Provision of designated Shire public camping sites.
5. Work with commercial caravan park operators to provide low cost, designated RV only overnight parking bays within main town centres.
6. Regular patrolling by Rangers of designated public camp sites to manage overnight camping privileges.
7. Regular patrolling of all other public space areas to manage illegal camping and encourage legal camping at commercial or designated public camp sites.

## Policy Guidelines

1. **Designated Free and Low-Cost Camping Areas**
  - a) Shire to work in collaboration with commercial caravan park operators within main townsites (currently Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe) to relocate current free 48hr camping locations to within or adjacent to CP operators, and for them to offer low cost self contained RV camping options that maintain RV Friendly status accreditation.

- b) Identify and establish a limited number of designated free or low-cost parking areas for self-contained vehicles at Shire Approved Rest Area locations throughout the district.

## **2. Public Awareness and Education**

- a) Install informative signage at camping sites highlighting rules and guidelines for responsible camping practices, including waste disposal, fire safety, and respect for wildlife and environment.
- b) Launch public awareness campaigns across social media, visitor centres and community centres to promote sustainable freedom camping.
- c) Distribute educational materials such as brochures and guides for campers to be made available at Shire offices, local businesses, visitor information centres and online.

## **3. Collaboration with Local Businesses**

- a) Work in partnership with Fitzgerald Business Network to encourage partnerships between caravan parks and local businesses to offer discounts or incentives to their guests on referrals to use local businesses.
- b) Implement a measuring tool to capture RV visitor spend at each of the free/low cost camping areas to help monitor spend and encourage local businesses to do the same.
- c) Provide signage at camping sites promoting the caravan parks and to guide campers towards local services and attractions, enhancing their stay and supporting the local economy.

## **4. Enforcement of Regulations**

- a) Regular patrolling by Rangers to monitor both free and low-cost camping areas, enforce rules, and issue fines for violations for illegal camping outside of approved locations.
- b) Conduct additional patrols, during peak seasons, to help manage free/low cost camping privileges and ensure compliance with guidelines.

## **5. Infrastructure Investment**

- a) Provision of nearby liquid waste dump points and potable water at nominated townsites.
- b) Invest in campsite improvements and maintenance to handle increased traffic to camping areas, ensuring safe and easy access.
- c) Implement effective waste management solutions, including recycling programs and regular waste collection services, to maintain cleanliness and protect the environment.

## **6. Stakeholder Engagement**

- a) Hold regular community meetings to discuss concerns, gather feedback, and develop collaborative solutions with input from local residents, businesses and campers.
- b) Include regular review of RV Policy by Ravensthorpe Tourism Advisory Group (RTAG) to guide policy development and implementation, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered.

### **Implementation and Review:**

- The Shire of Ravensthorpe will be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this policy.
- An annual review of the policy will be conducted to assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on feedback from stakeholders and changes in camping trends.

By providing both free and low-cost camping options and following these guidelines, the Shire of Ravensthorpe can ensure that various types of campers are accommodated, benefiting the environment, local economy, and all visitors.

#### Definitions and Abbreviations

**‘Self contained Recreational Vehicle (RV)’** is defined as providing internal sleeping accommodation, have internal kitchen and dining facilities including refrigerators and/or freezers, carry their own internal water supply and have internal shower and toilet facilities with a holding tank that requires access from time to time to a liquid water dump point.

**“Rest Area”** is defined by Main Roads WA as a vehicle parking area primarily designed to cater to motorists to stop and rest for a short period. Across WA there are more than 1,600 parking bays and rest areas which provide a safe place to stop. This includes 600 stops that offer basic facilities and over 60 rest areas that allow overnight stays.

**“Shire Approved Overnight Rest Area”** within the Ravensthorpe district the proposed Shire approved Overnight Rest Area locations are;

- Munglinup Rest Area (Reserve 27126)
- Fitzgerald Rest Area (old school site – Reserve 29437)
- Kundip Rest Area (old townsite)

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