

# Free and Low Cost Camping in Tasmania

Tasmania is open for business and there is no better place that caters for the free and low cost camping market with over 400 free and low cost campsites across the State as well as a significant number of well managed commercial parks and camping facilities.

**There has been a lot of misinformation shared across social media about the Government's new policy statement on public camping.**

**Here are the facts:**

- Importantly, visitors and locals alike continue to enjoy camping, and no camping sites have closed, or are flagged to close.
- Following consultation with councils, private operators, and RV users, it was found the previous policy needed clarification as well as simplification and that is exactly what has been achieved.

- Our State offers a range of free and low cost options in addition to well managed commercial Parks and facilities and both have an important role to play and this policy recognises that.
- The new policy statement is available on the Department of Treasury and Finance website <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-policy-and-reform/public-camping-competitive-neutrality-policy>

**How will campers be affected by the new Policy Statement?**

Campers will still have a wide variety of choices including free and low cost options as well as our well managed commercial parks and camping facilities. In the vast majority of cases, campers utilising free and low cost facilities are unlikely to notice any difference at all under the new Policy.

**Why does Tasmania need any rules on free or low cost camping?**

As an iconic visitor destination, we need to offer a wide range of choices to our visitors including free

and lower cost options as well as professionally run commercial parks with full facilities whilst safeguarding our environment and complying with all relevant State and Federal laws.

**What are National Competition Policy rules and why do councils and the Tasmanian Government need to comply with them?**

National Competition Policy ensures that State Government and Local government do not use the benefits of public ownership to unfairly compete with private businesses. All states and territories are subject to the same rules. The new policy statement provides more clarity as well as being simpler to understand and work with.

**Can Councils open new camping facilities?**

Yes. The policy provides a much clearer process which includes distance and site number guidance and resources to assist Councils.