



Public Places Bylaw 2026

Decision Story

Western Bay of Plenty District Council has reviewed its Public Places Bylaw 2025. Council considered community feedback received, and adopted a final bylaw on Thursday 27 August 2026. We wanted to let you know about the key decisions.



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

Public Places Bylaw 2026

This bylaw sets the rules for activities in public places, helping keep shared spaces safe, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone. This includes things like damage to public facilities, managing safety and obstructions, waste and fences, as well as advertising and vehicle crossings.

We reviewed the Public Places Bylaw in 2025 and found that it is generally working as intended, with some minor updates made. But before making the final decision, we checked in to make sure it's still appropriate for the community.

The Public Places Bylaw was required to be reviewed by August 2026 to meet legislative timeframes. This timeframe reflects five years since the bylaw was created in 2019, plus a two-year period in which to undertake the review.

Key changes proposed

We proposed to continue the Public Places Bylaw as it was, including the minor updates made in 2025. These were largely technical in nature and included clarification that burning of waste or offensive matter on a public place is prohibited, however burning of matter on a public place requires consent. No major changes were proposed.

Keeping the bylaw provides clarity and certainty. It helps protect public places, supports public safety, and ensures Council can respond when issues arise in shared spaces.

What did the feedback tell us?

The draft bylaw was open for feedback from 10 June to 2 July 2026.

In total, four submissions were received during the consultation period. Some of the requested amendments sit outside of the scope of the bylaw and others related to operational matters.

There was also feedback regarding the private sale of fireworks and restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks in public places.

Our Decisions

Council has approved the bylaw. There is one change from the draft version which clarifies that the use of fireworks on public places requires Council consent.

Operational matters have been referred to the relevant team in Council, who will be in touch with submitters.

The Public Places Bylaw will come into effect on Wednesday 30 September 2026.

Would you like to know more?

For full copies of the bylaw, you can visit one of our libraries and service centres or visit our website at [Bylaws and Policies - Western Bay of Plenty District Council](#).

Full copies of the reports are also available on our website as part of the Council meeting agendas at [Agendas and Minutes - Western Bay of Plenty District Council](#).