

Laws a threat to camping

I was reading with dismay the proposed changes to the Caravan and Camping Act (1995), as outlined on the Department of Local Government website.

Under a section (5.2) of the proposed legislation relating to non-approved camping sites, we are to be charged a permit fee if we choose to camp out for more than three days in a 28-day period and, if there are two or more campers sharing the same location, an event permit is required. Doesn't sound much — let me put it another way.

Going camping at Rowles, Niagara Dam or, say, Polson Creek for a three-day period over a long weekend with family and friends you will require:

- A camping permit.
- An event permit because there are two or more people gathered at that spot with the intention of camping.
- You will require the

owner's permission to camp.

■ If you want to go prospecting or camping regularly, you will always require a permit and an event permit in case you meet someone and share a campsite.

■ And, get this, failure to show a permit or an event permit to an authorised person will incur an on-the-spot infringement, which from all indications is going to be a hefty one.

This seems to be going down the track of recreational fishing, where an annual permit is required.

While parts of the proposed legislation are way overdue, this legislation will become enforceable.

Once again, the anti-fun police will try to turn an Aussie pastime into a money-grabbing exercise. Get online or contact your local MP to get this portion of the legislation clarified or rescinded.

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