

## **Frequently Asked Questions Caravan and Camping Parks on Crown Land**

### **What is the new policy for permits on Crown land caravan parks?**

The new policy is that:

- Committees of Management (CoM) and park managers must implement systems and processes to provide both new and existing campers with fair and reasonable opportunity to stay in Crown land caravan and camping parks.
- CoM and park managers must provide DSE with evidence of demand for each type of site available in its parks.
- The previous requirement for CoM to ensure a minimum of 10 per cent of sites within a park is available to new site holders each year or peak season is suspended until July 2013.
- Caravans may be sold on-site where:
  - Committees allow the sale
  - A transparent process is followed, where an independent valuation of the van is done before the sale and the van is sold within the permit year it's first offered for sale. If the van is not sold within the term of the permit or six months, whichever is greater, it must be removed from site.

### **What caravan and camping parks are affected by the new policy?**

All Crown land caravan and camping parks will follow the revised policy. Caravan and camping parks in national parks, on private land and on council-owned land are not affected by the policy.

### **When does the revised policy start?**

The revised policy became effective as of July 2011. Parks with management that has been leased are not required to implement the policy until the next lease is granted.

### **How will the revised policy affect me?**

Each committee will need to consider how it will implement the policy. DSE will work with committees to find the best way of applying the policy at each caravan and camping park. Guidelines on park management are also being revised, to better inform park managers on how to achieve the best outcomes for each park.

### **How do I apply for a permit? Can I do it online?**

Application procedures vary for each caravan park. CoM or park managers responsible for the park can tell you how to apply.

### **How much will it cost to stay in a caravan/camping park under the revised policy?**

Fees for caravanning and camping are set for each park by the relevant CoM or park manager. The new policy does not require CoM to introduce extra fees.

### **Are there still concession rates for permits?**

Fees for caravanning and camping, including concession rates, are set for each caravan and camping park by the relevant CoM or park manager. The revised policy does not require committees of management to introduce extra fees.

### **What is a 12-month permit and how does it work?**

A 12-month permit allows a permit-holder to put their caravan and annex on a campsite for a 12-month period. In most cases, the permit allows the holder to stay on site for no more than 60 consecutive days per year and for a maximum total of 180 days per year.

### **What is a seasonal permit and how does it work?**

There is a wide range of seasonal permits available across many parks. This permit allows holders to leave their caravan and annex or tent on a campsite for the duration of the defined 'season'. In most cases the permit holder can stay on site for no more than 60 consecutive days per year and a maximum total of 180 days per year. In Victoria seasonal permits are usually offered between November and April.

### **If I've been using the same site for a long time, can I leave it the way it is or do I have to remove things (gardens, annexes etc)?**

Establishment of gardens on sites in Crown land caravan parks is not permitted. Potted plants are allowed, provided they are in the site boundaries and easily removable.

All possessions must be packed away inside caravans and annexes when the permit holder is away.

### **Will my caravan be moved for me, or do I have to do it?**

Caravan owners are responsible for removing their belongings, including their caravans, if necessary.

### **What if I've invested in my caravan?**

DSE is aware some people may have bought caravans or invested in a site in the belief that they have a long-term lease. We also understand that some caravans may be difficult to move off-site for a sale.

If you're thinking of selling your caravan onsite or are currently negotiating a sale, it's important that you contact your park manager to ensure any arrangements you make are consistent with the aims of the policy.

DSE will work with committees to find the best way of applying the policy in each of the public parks, as circumstances are different in each area.

### **Can I request a particular site when I apply for my permit? And if not, why?**

It is the responsibility of CoM to allocate permits using a fair and transparent process. Individual committees may be able to meet requests for particular sites but this cannot be guaranteed, particularly in parks where demand for sites exceeds supply.

**Can I get a spot near my family and friends?**

It is the responsibility of CoM to allocate permits using a fair and transparent process. Individual committees may be able to locate friends and families together but this cannot be guaranteed, particularly in parks where demand for sites exceeds supply.

**Will I be guaranteed a spot in the park if I apply for a permit?**

Availability will depend on the demand in each park. There is no guarantee that every applicant who applies for a permit at the most popular parks will be allocated a site.

**Is the permit transferable to family or friends?**

Some CoM may allow the transfer of an unexpired 12-month permit to a permit holder's spouse, defacto partner or child for the remainder of that 12-month period.

The conditions of the transfer will be detailed in the park's 12-month permit terms and conditions.

**Where do I go for information about staying in a Crown land caravan park?**

Visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)