

Three easy steps to engaging with local government about camping rules in Australia.

Step one — Get your house in order.

Be a responsible Host

First and foremost, make sure you're being a responsible Host, thoughtful neighbour, and good citizen. That means making sure all structures are permitted and safe, taking all fire safety precautions, disposing of waste properly, and keeping noise and nuisance to a minimum, etc. Review [Hipcamp's Hosting Standards](#) for a full list of Hipcamp's expectations for Hosts.

Connect with other Hosts

Amplify your advocacy work by partnering with other Hosts in your council, both online and in person. Join the [Global Hipcamp Host Facebook group](#)! You can use this online group to:

- Share tips about navigating a development application
- Discuss who to speak with in various government departments
- Hire legal or political advisors as a group
- Develop a collective action strategy
- Meet with your local elected officials together

Learn the local laws

Before you started hosting, you should have familiarised yourself with laws in your areas related to your own camping and hosting activities. If you'd like to advocate for changes to those laws, spend some extra time reading the related zoning regulations, ordinances, and building codes. Most local governments post these laws online, which enable you to search for keywords, such as: "camping", "short-term rental", or "holiday rental". It may be helpful to ask the local Planning Department for help interpreting the existing laws, or you may prefer to hire a local land use lawyer or professional who can give you confidential advice.

Step two — Prepare your message.



Develop thoughtful recommendations

Your conversations with local government officials can be much more constructive if you offer clear and thoughtful recommendations for new policies. You can do this by:

- Writing a list of suggested changes to the existing codes
 - Hiring a lawyer to draft recommended amendments to the existing codes.
 - Sharing examples from other councils, such as [this one from the Fraser Coast Council](#) or [short term accommodation in a rural zone in Southern Downs Regional Council](#) and the [state-wide Agritourism Reforms in NSW](#).
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Mission-aligned talking points:

Keeping local land in local hands

Hipcamp creates sustainable income for local landowners and supports you in maintaining ownership of your property amidst rising costs of land ownership.

Generating economic prosperity

Hipcamp brings new visitors who support local businesses, from groceries to restaurants to gear shops & guide companies.

Strengthening the local food economy

Many Hipcamp Hosts are commercial farmers. Creating value aligned income for this community means stronger, more resilient local food systems, now and in our future.

Conserving land

Hipcampers want to stay in beautiful natural areas and the income Hosts earn is used to protect and preserve their properties. Preserving land for wildlife corridors, water catchments, and habitats is critical for the health of our ecosystems.

Personal-experience talking points:

Your hosting story

Share why you started hosting campers, why hosting is important to you, how you take care of your land, how camping contributes to the surrounding community.

What campers say

Share camper reviews about you as a Host, the region, and why they enjoyed it.

Responsible hosting & Insurance

Share [Hipcamp's Hosting Standards](#) and our [Public Liability Insurance policy](#), and provide examples of how you and other hosts are ensuring that your campsites are safe, environmentally responsible, and neighbour-friendly.

The significance of camping

Show the importance of camping to the Council with numbers. How many campsites are there? How many campers per year? How much revenue is generated for you, local businesses, and the Council/city? Email us at policy@hipcamp.com to request Hipcamp's data about your area

Step three — Take Action.

Contact your elected official:

The best way to create change is through your local elected officials. Look up what local Council your land is in and find the local Council member that represents it. You can email them, call their office, or request an in-person meeting. Please remember—these people can have tough jobs. Approaching with anger is not helpful, and saying “thank you” can go a long way. We also find it useful to find someone in Tourism and Economic Development as they are likely to be great supporters of what you’re trying to achieve.

Reach out to us for advice:

If you’d like to discuss these or other ideas for how to advocate for camping in your area, let us know! We’re happy to provide advice when we can. Reach out to [**policy@hipcamp.com**](mailto:policy@hipcamp.com) if you have any questions.