



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**



Fact sheet: Temporary accommodation and camping outside of caravan parks

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Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
PO BOX 8349 Perth Business Centre WA 6849

Email: communications@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au

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What is temporary accommodation?

Under the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997, a local government can consider applications to occupy a caravan or camp on private land.

Usually, a caravan or tiny home on wheels is the easiest form of temporary accommodation to place on the land under these approvals. Caravans or tiny homes on wheels are easily removable if need be.

The construction of a building or permanent structure on the land is generally subject to planning or building approval and cannot be approved under these regulations.

Reasons for use

Caravans and tiny homes on wheels are used by many people in WA for a variety of reasons including:

- temporary housing following a natural disaster
- staying in a caravan or tiny home on wheels while building or renovating a permanent home
- for seasonal worker housing
- to support someone ageing-in-place
- for holiday-makers
- other personal circumstances.

It is important that caravans and tiny homes on wheels are used in a safe and healthy manner. That's why [WA legislation](#) generally restricts the use of caravans to licensed caravan parks, where a certain level of services and utilities must be supplied.

If a person uses a caravan or tiny home on wheels outside a licensed park without approval or exemption, they risk committing an offence, regardless of whether the land is private or public.

What are the exemptions?

Approved short-term stay

- up to 5 nights approval required from the property owner
- up to 24 months approval required from the property owner and the local government
- re-applying after 24 months — approval required from the property owner and the local government.

If the applicant is seeking to camp on a state or federal reserve, approval may also be required from the authority who manages that land.

Roadside emergency

A person may use a caravan on a roadside if their vehicle has broken down or they are unable to drive safely.

For this exemption to apply:

- there must be a legitimate emergency
- the vehicle must not cause a road hazard
- the vehicle must be moved as soon as it is safe to do so (if it is immobile, it should be towed away).

Overnight rest stop

Many local governments and state highways provide clearly marked overnight rest stops for convenience and public safety.

No approval is required to use these rest stops for up to 24 consecutive hours only.

Approval conditions

If a local government grants an approval to camp, they may make it subject to health and safety conditions. For example, the local government may require the applicant to have sufficient power, water, sewage, and cooking facilities.

The duties, approvals and exemptions that may apply are outlined in the [Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulation 1997](#).

The Minister for Local Government has the power to consider camping approvals in instances where a local government does not provide approval or revokes an approval. If the Minister provides an approval to camp, this cannot be revoked by the local government.



Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries
PO BOX 8349
Perth Business Centre WA 6849
Phone: 6552 1530
Email: legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au
Website: www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au