

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

Draft Fees and Charges 2024/25

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waipadc.govt.nz

Introduction

Council's fees and charges are reviewed annually and updated when required to better reflect the true cost of providing certain services outlined in our Revenue and Finance Policy.

Our Revenue and Financing Policy provides information on various funding sources and the rationale for the use of each funding source. Typically, where a service or activity is intended to benefit an individual customer (for example a dog registration benefits an individual dog owner, or a resource consent benefits the individual applicant), Council will apply a fee or charge to cover the cost of delivering that service. The aim is to shift a proportion of the cost to the people who get the most use out of the service, rather than the general ratepayer.

When setting fees and charges, a number of considerations are kept in mind, including indirect benefit to the community, distribution of benefits and ability to pay. We need to take into account external costs such as interest rates and inflation, as well staff time and expenses like electricity and insurance. The fees and charges have been reviewed and the Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024/25 is included with this Statement of Proposal. Here we summarise the draft changes to the fees and charges for 2024/25 from the 2023/24 Schedule.

This statement of proposal also includes:

- An overview of the key changes.
- The reasons for reviewing the fees and charges.
- An analysis of the reasonably practical options to the changes.
- A summary of the review process.
- A summary of the legislation related to the review.
- Instructions on how to make a submission.
- A submission form.

Summary of draft changes to Fees and Charges Schedule

The Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges (Schedule) includes all of Council's proposed fees and charges for the financial year 2024/25.

Professional fees (hourly rates) have increased across Council due to inflation and are reflected in many of the fees that are increased.

Local Authority travel costs have increased from \$0.83 to \$0.95 per km, in line with the Inland Revenue Department mileage rate.

Most fees and charges for the 2024/25 year have been increased by 10 per cent, with some exceptions to these increases noted below:

Increases of more than 10 per cent include:

- **Alignment with market rates:** For example, the fees associated with trade waste.
- **Regulatory and other fees:** For example, increases in Land Information Memoranda (LIM) costs to reflect the increases in staff costs when completing this service.
- **Registration of Premises under the Health Act 1956:** Registration fees were increased to better reflect the current market rate and also broken down into two items; 'renewal' registration fees and 'new' registration fees. Previously 'renewals' and 'new' processes were lumped as one fee.
- **Mighty River Domain – Lake Karapiro accommodation and events:** These fees were updated to reflect the commercial benefits derived from this site for event hire and related services, accommodation and camping facilities. In addition, these fees were last updated in 2020/21.

Increases of less than 10 per cent:

- **Building consent:** A small number of fees are set by the Building Act 2004 regulations; these fees have been updated to reflect the Government's set fees.
- **Cemetery fees:** Fees remain the same for ashes but increase for casket burials to incentivise interment of ashes.
- **Overweight permits:** No increase, current fees enable cost recovery.
- **Registration of Premises under the Food Act 2014:** Small increases to better reflect the current market rate.
- **Library fees:** Small increases for non-residential subscriptions. Fees to borrow items will remain unchanged to incentivise community use.
- **Library community space (Te Awamutu):** Commercial hireage costs have increased but there is no increase for community use to encourage use and provide some financial relief for non-profit groups.
- **Museum fees (Te Awamutu):** Most of the current fees enable cost recovery. The research service time fee has increased to reflect increases in staff costs when completing this service.

Reason for changes to the Fees and Charges

The purpose of reviewing the fees and charges is to ensure that each charge will recover the actual and reasonable costs associated with:

1. Goods, services, or amenities provided by Council.
2. The issuing or monitoring of permits, inspections and other approvals associated with Council's bylaws and legislation.
3. Processing and making decisions in relation to resource consents, plan changes and designations, and fulfilling certain other regulatory obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Summary of review process ahead

- Consultation opens **Monday 25 March**.
- Closing date for submissions – **9am, Friday 26 April**.
- Council hearing of verbal submissions - **expected in early May**.
- Council to make decisions on submissions - **expected in early May**.
- Council to formally adopt the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024/25 – **expected in late May**.

Analysis of Reasonably Practicable Options

The alternative option to changing the fees and charges as proposed would be to rollover the current level of fees and charges from the 2023/24 year. However, this would mean that Council would not be able to recover its full costs for exercising many of its regulatory functions, the provision of services and amenities due to inflationary increases. Nor could many of the draft reductions in fees be implemented. Given this, this alternative option has not been pursued.

Legislation

Section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) empowers Council to set fees and charges for consents and other approvals, as provided for under Bylaws made under the LGA or by other legislation which does not specifically authorise the making of such fees. Any fees and charges set under this provision must be consulted on first.

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), section 205 of the Food Act 2014, section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 and sections 219 and 240 of the Building Act 2004 also empower Council to set fees and charges in relation to functions exercised under those Acts. The RMA and Food Act specifically require the special consultative procedure to be used before any such fees are set.

This Statement of Proposal has been prepared to fulfill the purposes of sections 82, 82A, 83(1)(a) and 87(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002.

The review of Council's fees and charges is pursuant to:

- Building Act 2004
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Food Act 2014
- Health Act 1956
- Impounding Act 1955
- Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991

Consultation and Submissions

Anyone can make a submission on Waipā District Council's Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges Schedule (Schedule), and we encourage you to let us know your views.

What is a submission?

Submissions are a written record of your views / preferences on a particular issue. By making a submission you can ensure that your voice is heard by councillors to assist them in their decision making. Submissions may be sent or given to the Council from any organisation or any member of the public during a time period specified by Council. In most cases submission forms are available at Council offices and libraries and on our website waipadc.govt.nz/draftfeesandcharges.

When can I make a submission?

The submission period for this draft Schedule opens on **Monday 25 March** and closes at **9am, Friday 26 April**.

How can I make a submission?

Anyone may make a written submission on the content of this draft Schedule.

Written submissions are preferred, and we've included a submission form with this document and on our website haveyoursay.waipadc.govt.nz. This form is intended as a guide only but is suitable for brief submissions. Please attach additional pages as necessary.

In addition, if you wish to present your comments in person, Council expects to conduct hearings in early May 2024, either in person or online. Submitters wishing to be heard in support of their submission must clearly state this in their submission. All submitters wishing to be heard will be contacted to arrange an appropriate time on the date specified.

**Please note that written submissions are to be received by Waipā District Council by
9am, Friday 26 April.**

Submissions can be:



Online:

waipadc.govt.nz/draftfeesandcharges



Emailed to:

haveyoursay@waipadc.govt.nz

Subject heading should read: "Fees and charges 2024/25 – Submission"



Posted to:

Waipā District Council
Private Bag 2402
Te Awamutu 3840
Attn: Strategy Team



Delivered to Council offices:

Waipā District Council
101 Bank Street
Te Awamutu
Attn: Strategy Team

OR

Waipā District Council
23 Wilson Street
Cambridge
Attn: Strategy Team

What happens next?

Council will acknowledge each submission received.

Following the closing of submissions at **9am, Friday 26 April**, all submissions will be reviewed by Councillors. Verbal submissions will be heard, and all submissions formally considered at a Council hearing in early May, conducted either in person or online. This meeting is open to both submitters and the public to attend.

Important Dates to Remember:

Submissions open
Monday
25 March 2024

Submissions close
9am, Friday
26 April 2024

Hearing of
submissions
expected in early
May 2024

