

Te kaupapa here o ngā utu 2025 Fees & Charges Policy review

Te Taukī Whakakaupapa Statement of Proposal



Te tirohanga whānui

Overview

What is the Fees & Charges Policy?

Regional Council's core function is to ensure the sustainable management of natural physical resources.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) sets out how we should manage our environment. It promotes the sustainable management of natural physical resources and forms the foundation for most of our work.

To carry out this work, we process resource consents, monitor and manage consented and other authorised activities, and monitor the state of the region's resources.

The costs associated with this work are set under section 36 of the RMA in the Council Charges Policy and we pass these costs along to applicants and consent holders.

The Fees and Charges Policy outlines this in further detail and sets out what activities will incur costs and what these costs will be.

Why has this policy been reviewed?

The policy is reviewed regularly to ensure the charges reflect the cost of carrying out this work. Any changes need to be adopted by Council before they are implemented.

What is proposed?

This Statement of Proposal provides an overview of the proposed changes to our Fees and Charges Policy, which, if adopted, would be introduced from 1 July 2025.

Detailed information is available on our website:
www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/FeesandCharges2025

At a glance, the changes we are proposing are:

- 1 Increasing resource consent deposits.
- 2 Recovery of the actual and reasonable cost of work associated with Fast-Track Approval projects.
- 3 Minor adjustments to some compliance inspection frequencies.
- 4 Applying a 10% increase to four fee categories, where increases were omitted in the 2024/25 review.
- 5 Applying a general increase to all fees and charges in line with inflation.

Resource Management Act 1991, section 36

Under section 36 we can recover reasonable costs for a number of functions, including the following:

- Receiving, processing and granting of resource consents (including certificates of compliance),
- Administration, monitoring and supervision of resource consents (including certificates of compliance) and resource management functions under section 35 of the RMA (environmental monitoring),
- Reviewing resource consent conditions under Section 128(1)(a) and (c) of the RMA and reviews carried out at the request of the consent holder,
- Providing information in respect of Council plans and resource consents,
- Supplying documents,
- Charges authorised by regulations, and
- Additional charges, whereby a fixed fee is not enough to recover our costs. For example, where the cost of processing a consent application is greater than the deposit fee paid by the applicant.

This proposed update to the Charges Policy are limited to the amounts charged for various types of work as a result of cost increases.

Whakarāpopotonga o ngā panonitanga tono

Summary of proposed changes

Regional Council is proposing to increase resource consent deposit fees, adjust the frequency of some compliance inspections, apply the cost of service delivery to some fee categories and apply inflation to most other fees.

Considerations involved in this review included:

- Review of resource consent deposit fees
- Effort and frequency of compliance monitoring
- Staff salary rates
- Overhead costs
- Other inflationary impacts on the cost of service delivery

It is proposed to increase most of the charges in the schedules by 2.3% to cover the increased cost of service delivery (note that the final policy adopted in June 2025 will use the March 2025 CPI value that is due to be released in April 2025). These charges fund between 20% and 40% of the cost of these activities. The balance is funded from general rates to represent the wider regional benefit of scientific environmental monitoring and protection, in accordance with our [Revenue and Financing Policy](#).

The key changes we are proposing are outlined below:

- 1 Increase to resource consent deposit fees.
- 2 Recovery of the actual and reasonable cost of work on Fast-Track Approval projects.
- 3 Minor adjustments to some compliance inspection frequencies.
- 4 Applying a 10% increase to four fee categories, where increases were omitted in the 2024/25 review. This is to cover higher costs of service delivery.

There are no changes proposed to the Gravel Management fee, Navigation Safety Bylaw fees (including Port Charges (Harbour Dues)) or Building Act charges.

A schedule of the full current and proposed charges is shown in the draft 2025 Fees and Charges Policy, which is available through www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/fees-and-charges2025, at Regional Council offices in Tauranga, Rotorua and Whakatāne, or by emailing Feesand.Charges@boprc.govt.nz.

1 Increase to resource consent deposits

Increasing the resource consent deposit fees will help reduce the potential shortfall between the initial deposit paid by the applicant and the final cost of processing a consent application. The current resource consent application deposit fees were last reviewed in 2018 /19 and are based on the three tiers below (which are for applications that are charged by the hour, as per Schedule A of the Fees and Charges Policy).

The regional resource consent process involves several key steps to ensure that activities affecting the environment are managed appropriately. The benefit of increasing the deposit fees would mean that applicants receive a more realistic expectation of the total cost of their consent. Changes to deposit fees will not affect the total fees charged for resource consent application processing.

Please see supporting documents for more detail on what goes into the consent process/what the cost is for.

Additionally, the fee for Bore and Pump Test Fluid Discharge consents is proposed to be increased to cover actual and reasonable costs.

Table 1 Proposed changes to Resource Consent fees

Fees	Current 2024/25 (incl. GST)	Proposed 2025/26 (incl. GST)
Tier 1 – Deposit Fee	\$775	\$1000
Tier 2 – Deposit Fee	\$1770	\$2500
Tier 3 – Deposit Fee	\$2700	\$4000
Fixed Fee for Bore Drilling and Pump Test	\$485	\$550

2 Cost recovery for Fast-track Approvals Bill projects

Following the Fast-track Approvals Bill becoming law at the end of 2024, a new fee is proposed for recovering the actual and reasonable costs of work associated with responding to Fast-Track Approval projects (as per staff charge rates in Schedule A of the Fees and Charges Policy).

3 Minor adjustments to some compliance inspection frequencies

It is proposed to amend the inspection frequencies for two compliance categories, specifically the physical site visit component. These changes affect only Schedule 2A Variable (also known as Actual and Reasonable) compliance categories (refer to Table 2 below).

The proposed changes reflect the risk associated with each compliance category, based on officer experience and compliance reporting data. Since these are currently on an actual and reasonable basis, the impact of this change is relatively minor.

Each of the compliance categories proposed for amendment also have a high Performance Monitoring (PM) component to them. The proposed changes do not affect the PM management component of the monitoring.

Table 2 Compliance inspection frequency proposed changes

Schedule 2A - Consents subject to variable compliance monitoring charges					
Compliance Category	Code	Current Frequency	Proposed Frequency	Description	Rationale
Consumptive Water use with 5 or more Abstraction Points with Manual or Telemetry Water Use Record Submission, or any Consumptive Water Use with additional use management	CWMX	As required	5 yearly	Water use record compliance on a regular basis and additional or more frequent compliance monitoring e.g. when flow restrictions require cease-take compliance, or non-concurrent use, water quality sampling etc.	These takes are still monitored closely though the submission of regular PM records and reports. A five-yearly inspection frequency is consistent with most other consumptive water take consents. Although manual records generate more staff time spent on administration, it does not impact the onsite performance of the individual abstraction points. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to align the site inspection frequency of this category with the telemetered takes i.e. 5 yearly.
Hydro Dams	Hydro	1 yearly	3-5 yearly	Large hydro schemes are generally well managed, however, impact of non-compliance can be very significant.	Hydro schemes infrastructure is closely monitored and managed by the scheme owners. Compliance site inspections rarely highlight onsite issues. All hydro schemes have a heavy PM reporting burden, which are closely monitored by the compliance team. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to reduce the site inspection frequency of this category down to 3-5 yearly.

4 Applying increased cost of service delivery to some fee categories

During the 2024/25 review, a 10% increase was applied to cover the increased cost of service delivery. This increase was reflected in the fees listed in the schedules, but four fee categories in the policy were not adjusted.

It is now proposed to apply this increase to those fee categories (listed below in Table 3) for 2025.

Table 3 Proposed increases to fee categories

Table	Type	Current policy (incl. GST)	Proposed 2025/26 (incl. GST)
Table 6: Administration charge	Standard charge	\$150.00	\$165.00
Table 6: Administration charge	Multiple consents: Additional charge per consent holder where separate invoicing and correspondence is required	\$130.00	\$145.00
Table 7: Compliance monitoring charges	Fixed administration fee relating to late or non-submission of records and monitoring reports	\$265.00	\$290.00
Table 12: Enforcement charges	Issue of an abatement notice	\$250.00	\$275.00

Uiuinga me ngā tukunga

Consultation and submissions

Regional Council welcomes your views and feedback on the proposed changes outlined in this statement of proposal, as well as the draft 2025 Fees and Charges Policy generally. To have your say, you will need to make a formal submission.

What's a submission?

A submission is a statement in support of, or in opposition to, any part of this statement of proposal and the **draft 2025 Fees and Charges Policy**. Any organisation or member of the public can make a submission.

How do I get a full copy of the draft Fees and Charges Policy?

- Phone us on 0800 884 880 or email us at **Feesand.Charges@boprc.govt.nz** and we'll send one to you.
- Visit <https://www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/fees-and-charges2025> and read it online.

Copies of the draft Fees & Charges policy can also be viewed at, or picked up from, any of our offices.

- 5 Quay Street, Whakatāne
- 1118 Fenton Street, Rotorua
- 1 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga

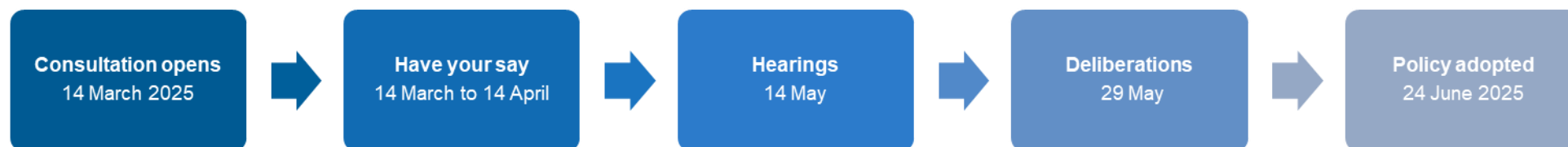
How do I make a submission?

You can visit our Participate website www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/fees-and-charges2025 and make a submission online or use the form at the end of this Statement of Proposal (page 10).

Key tips

- Be brief and clear about the matters that you support or oppose.
- State the most important points you want Regional Council to consider.
- Make your comments as specific as possible.
- Note which part of the draft policy, statement of proposal or summary your comments refer to by including page numbers and sections.
- Clearly state your name, address, email, and telephone number.

People who make a written submission can also speak to their submission at hearings scheduled for 14 May 2025. Following the hearings, Regional Council will make final decisions on the policy in June 2025. Any changes made through those decisions will be reflected in the final Fees and Charges Policy and published on Regional Council's website, effective from 1 July 2025.



Submissions close 4:00 pm Monday, 14 April 2025

Submission form – Draft 2025 Fees and Charges Policy

Your details

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Are you submitting as an individual, for someone else or on behalf of an organisation?

☐ Individual ☐ On behalf of someone else ☐ Organisation (if applicable): _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Postal address: _____

Your contact details are requested so that you can be kept informed of the hearings process and the outcomes of any decisions. A summary of all submissions will be published on our website www.boprc.govt.nz including names of the submitters unless you have indicated that you do wish to keep your contact details confidential.

Do you wish to keep your contact details confidential? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Understanding our community

As part of our commitment to inclusivity, we request demographic information such as age, gender, ethnicity, and location. This information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, stored securely, and used solely for statistical analysis. Your privacy is our priority, and we adhere to stringent data protection measures. Participation in providing this information is entirely voluntary, and you may choose not to disclose any demographic details.

How do you identify your gender?

- ☐ Male / Tāne
☐ Female / Wahine
☐ Another gender / He ira kē anō _____
☐ Prefer not to say

What year were you born? _____

Which district do you live in?

- ☐ Tauranga ☐ Western Bay of Plenty ☐ Ōpōtiki ☐ Taupō
☐ Rotorua ☐ Whakatāne ☐ Kawerau ☐ Other _____

What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ NZ European (Pākehā) ☐ Chinese
☐ Māori ☐ Indian
☐ Samoan ☐ Prefer not to say
☐ Cook Islander ☐ Other - e.g. Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan etc
☐ Tongan
☐ Niuean _____

Your postcode

Speaking to your submission

All submitters have the opportunity to present their feedback to council during the hearings process. Please indicate your preferred option below.

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

I will present in

- ☐ English
☐ Te Reo Māori
☐ NZ Sign Language

Where would you like to present?

- ☐ Tauranga (in person)
☐ Online (i.e. Zoom)

Once completed please send this form to:

You can make a submission by email to **Feesand.Charges@boprc.govt.nz** or online at **www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/FeesandCharges2025**

**Submissions close
4:00 pm Monday
14 April 2025**



BAY OF PLENTY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TOI MOANA