

Fees and Charges for the 2023/24 Financial Year

Statement of Proposal for Resource Consent fees and charges 2023/24

Introduction

New and/or amended fees and charges relating resource consents may only be set following consultation. This Statement of Proposal has therefore been prepared in accordance with requirements of section 83 of the Local Government Act (LGA) relating to the Special Consultative Procedure.

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) enables the Far North District Council (Council) to set fees and charges payable by applicants for resource consent, by holders of resource consents, and for other matters set out in section 36 6 that relate to Council's administration of its functions under the RMA.

The review and amendment of Resource Consent fees was carried out as part of Council's annual review of all fees and charges. Council may set its schedule of all fees and charges by resolution under section 150 of the LGA, without consultation, with the exception of charges set through the RMA which must be set following the Special Consultative Procedure prescribed by the LGA.

Proposed changes to Resource Consent fees and charges for 2023/24

The following changes are as proposes:

1. Application types for simple land use and land use are to be amended based on the review of the current processing costs compared with the instalment fee, with the look to increase the initial payment in line with actual charges currently invoiced for an application. This will reduce the amount of additional invoices/debt and manage customer's expectations of final costs.

Application type	Current instalment	Proposed instalment	Increase/ (decrease)
Simple land use (single zone rule breach)	\$1,204	\$1,500	\$296.00
Land use	\$1,933	\$2,500	\$567.00

2. That fees for hourly processing charges be aligning hourly rates with current market rates for planners' services.

Application type	Current instalment	Proposed instalment	Increase/ (decrease)
Principal Planner and Manager; Resource Management	\$185.00	\$210.00	\$25.00
Resource Consent Engineer	\$185.00	\$190.00	\$5.00
Team Leader	\$174.00	\$200.00	\$26.00

Application type	Current instalment	Proposed instalment	Increase/ (decrease)
Senior Planner	\$174.00	\$190.00	\$16.00
Intermediate Resource Planner	\$174.00	\$185.00	\$11.00
Resource Planner	\$174.00	\$180.00	\$6.00
Consents Planner	\$138.00	\$160.00	\$22.00
Planning Technician and Monitoring Officer	\$138.00	\$155.00	\$17.00

3. Additional resource consents fees are been proposed as follows:

- **Engineering Plan Approval (EPA)**

Engineering Plan Approvals have been included to reflect the Engineers time spent on reviewing technical reports that are required by condition of resource consent post approval. Currently there is no mechanism for council to charge for the significant amount of time spent on EPAs and council is absorbing the costs. The cost should be borne by the developer not the ratepayer.

- **Hourly processing charge for professional services pre-application meetings and concept development meetings)**

It is proposed to remove the free ½ hour session for pre-application meetings and concept development meetings. concept development meetings often have multiple professionals including planners, principal planners, engineers, development engineers, asset managers and roading engineers. The meetings should be charged an instalment then at an hourly rate thereafter and include the time that is taken prior to the meeting to undertake research. The developer should carry the costs of development not the ratepayer.

Fees feehand charges review

We are currently in the process of reviewing all our fees and charges in depth. This process, ensures that we are meeting compliance as well making sure we are recovering only costs to cover that service or activity ensuring the user pays where applicable. It also allows in some cases to simplify fees or provide a more realistic indication of cost.

We also take the opportunity to review and adjust our fees annually with an inflationary adjustment in recognition of rising local government costs. However, some fees may be adjusted beyond inflation to meet cost recovery, while others may not change at all or have been change to 'actual costs' to reflect the typical process of that service vary for each user.

If you have feedback on any of the fees in that schedule, please feel free to make a submission using any of the methods at the end of this document.

Note: Fees have been increased by 4.2% (inflationary adjustment) for 2023/24 (unless otherwise stated).

New fees

New fees have been added into the Certificates, licenses and permits activity, specifically in relation to the Food Control Programme. These fees are:

- **Thermometer (supply of)**

Supplying of thermometers would ensure users have on hand, equipment to assist with

complying with Health and Safety. As this is a primary function of the control programme, we are able to secure stock of thermometers at a reasonable cost.

- **Additional food control plan document**
This fee cover the cost of printing this documentation should an operator request it.
- **Additional national programme document pack.**
This fee would also cover the cost of printing this documentation should it be requested.

Removal of fees

- **Building consents**
Fixed fee applications: As part of the fee review, these fees are to be removed as they are duplicated and not based on actual cost as each building consent application differs in complexity.

Banded fees: The fees differed in nature and complexity for the consent work undertaken and do not necessarily fit into the bands. Building consent applications and processes vary in complexity and time and hourly processing charges are based on actual time taken to perform duties to process the applications.
- **Environmental health license**
Removal of the fee for charitable organisations as this is not applicable.
- **Mobile shop, stall, hawkers, alfresco dining and tour operators' licenses (Road Use Bylaw)**
Removal of market food premises and mobile shop. Duplicated non-applicable fee.
- **Bylaw license applications**
Removal of fees for applications for keeping animals, poultry and bees and entertainment premises as bylaw have been revoked.
- **Water supply**
Standpipes metered section removed due to changes in Taumata Arowai regulations.

Other changes to fees

The following fees have been changed to 'actual costs' to reflect the time taken to process each application:

- **Vehicle crossing application and inspection fees**
These fees have been reviewed and have been adjusted to reflect an average of actual time taken to process applications and inspections.
- **Building consents**
Hourly processing fees: adjusted to reflect actual time required to process consents.

The following fee has been adjusted due to a clerical error in 2022/23:

- **Cemetery fee**
Interment – oversize double depth: This fee is increased to allow for additional costs for the time that is required for burial at double depths interments by contractors.

The full schedule of the Proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/24 can be found on our website.

Please note that this schedule will not be formally adopted by Council until early June 2023 and comes into effect from July 1 2023.

Making a submission

Anyone can make a submission regarding the amendments proposed in this document, and we encourage you to let us know your views.

We have provided a submission form online and at our service centres. The form is ideal for brief submissions, but you may attach additional pages if you wish.

The submission period opens on Friday, 24 March 2023 and closes on Monday, 24 April 2023.

Submitters will have the opportunity to be heard in support of their submissions, the date for which will depend upon the number of submitters wishing to present. **Submitters wishing to present their submission verbally will be contacted directly to make arrangements.**

Submissions can be:

- Made online: www.fndc.govt.nz/yoursay
- Emailed to: submissions@fndc.govt.nz. Subject heading should read "Fees and Charges 2023/24"
- Posted to: Far North District Council
Private Bag 752
Kaikohe 0440
Attention: F&C submissions team
- Delivered to: Any of our service centres:

KAIKOHE

5 Memorial Avenue
Open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

KAITAIA

Te Ahu, corner Matthews Ave
& South Rd
Open Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm

KERIKERI

John Butler Centre, 60 Kerikeri
Rd
Open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

Remember that written submissions must be received
by 24 April 2023

What happens next?

Council will acknowledge each submission received in writing.

Following the closing of submissions on 24 April 2023, all submissions will be reviewed by Councillors. Submitters will have an opportunity to present their submission verbally at a meeting that is open to the public. Council will then formally consider all submissions at the 1 June Council meeting where the schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24 will be formally adopted.

The adopted schedule will be enacted on 1 July 2023.