

Changes to the Fees and Charges Schedule

Statement of Proposal



We are proposing to make changes to the Fees and Charges Schedule to enable Environment Southland to recover actual and reasonable costs for the services we provide. Feedback from the community is sought on the proposed changes to the schedule.

Background

Environment Southland's Fees and Charges Schedule describes the fees and charges we have set under legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Local Government Act 2002 and Building Act 2004. These Acts allow us to recover all reasonable costs incurred in respect of the activity to which the charge relates. The fees and charges covered in the schedule include:

- Resource Management Act 1991 charges under Section 36 of the RMA:
 - changes to policy statements and regional plans;
 - resource consent application charges (including transfers of resource consents and reviews of resource consents);
- annual consent holder charges and compliance charges
- Local Government Act 2002 charges for incident cost recovery;
- Biosecurity Act 1993 charges;
- Local Government Act 2002 charges for Spatial Information Data;
- Local Government Act 2002 charges for River and Catchment Services;
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 charges;
- Building Act 2004 charges;
- Maritime Transport Act 1994 and Southland Regional Council Navigation Bylaw charges;
- Southland Flood Control & Drainage Management Bylaw 2020 charges; and
- Coastal Occupation Charges from Policy 9.1.9 of the Southland Regional Coastal Plan.

Environment Southland regularly reviews and updates its Fees and Charges Schedule. Primarily, the changes proposed this year are to keep up with inflationary costs and better reflect the services being provided and how they are charged.

Proposed changes

Fees and charges are set on a cost recovery basis so that individuals pay for the services they use. Elements of most of our activities are also paid for by rates or other external sources.

Adjusted fees and charges

A CPI increase of 7% has been applied to all current charges, apart from the Annual Coastal occupation charges, which has been adjusted by the more precise CPI figure of 7.2%. This is to ensure that the costs being incurred for this work are adequately covered by the fees being charged.

The initial fixed fee for applications to change policy statements and plans has been raised from \$20,000 to \$40,000 (excl. GST), noting that this effectively functions as a deposit. As such, where the actual cost of the application processing and hearing is lower than the deposit, the difference will be refunded. Should the actual costs be higher, an additional charge will be required.

Some threshold amounts have also been adjusted. The proposed minimum invoicing amount is \$45, and refunds will correspondingly be issued to the lower threshold of \$45 (both being \$50 previously).

Harbourmaster

The role of the Harbourmaster's Office includes managing maritime-related activities and navigation safety on all

waterways. The proposed Fees and Charges schedule now contains a section on Harbourmaster's Office Services and Navigational Safety. This includes applications made under the Southland Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2009 (revised 2015), recovery of costs related to incidents, and cost recovery for other Harbourmaster's Office services.

Consent Monitoring

Some monitoring charges have been amended for clarity and also adjusted to reflect CPI. For example, the proposed Fees and Charges Schedule has been updated to make specific reference to the NES-PF and NES-F, and Section 332 of the RMA.

Other inclusions

Recent extreme weather events have shown the necessity of ensuring our region has resilient flood protection and control. As such, a new section outlining charges for activities related to the Southland Flood Control & Drainage Management Bylaw 2020 has been added.

An interest charge for overdue invoices has also been included in the proposed schedule.

Wording changes

There have been updates to wording throughout the proposed Fees and Charges Schedule, which are largely to provide additional explanation and clarity.

The following list notes the main amendments to wording in each part of the schedule, beyond those mentioned already:

- Section 1: Wording has been amended to better explain the reasons for and basis of charges.
- Section 2: There is now clearer reference to bylaws and charges, and explanation of our regular review of the Fees and Charges Schedule itself.
- Section 3: Clarification has been added about the Council charges for a range of activities under the RMA.
- Section 5: There is further clarification regarding permitted activities and their applicable RMA sections, as well as improved explanation and clarification of charges relating to pre-hearing meetings and hearings.
- Section 6: Changes enrich explanation of council's role in monitoring consent compliance, the purpose of additional monitoring, improved illustration of associated costs. There is also clarification of permitted activities charges and terminology, and additional explanation of gravel consent monitoring in relation to flood carrying capacity, the environment, and our community.
- Section 7: Wording changes in this section add clarity around biosecurity activities, contaminated land, and information requests.

Have your say

We are now consulting and would like your views on the changes to our Fees and Charges Schedule. Submissions can be made in a number of ways:



Online

www.es.govt.nz/consultations



Email

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Mail

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Please ensure that if you wish to speak to your submission, you indicate this in your written submission.

Submissions close on Sunday 4 June 2023.