

Statement of Proposal

Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27

Tauākī Tūtohu



Introduction | Kupu Whakataki

While rates are our council's main source of income, we also receive around 12% of our operating revenue from fees and charges.

Fees and charges are either total or partial cost recoveries for certain services. The proportion of costs that can be recovered through fees and charges for any given activity is set out in the Council's Revenue and Financing Policy.

Fees and charges cover a wide range of Council services including swimming pool entry fees, dog registration fees, facility hire and building consents.

Annual Review of Fees and Charges | Arotakenga a-Tau o nga Utu me nga Nohonga

We usually review our fees and charges annually alongside the annual planning or long-term planning process. This regular review ensures fees and charges are up to date and reflect the actual and reasonable costs of providing services and activities to the community.

As part of this review, we're publicly consulting on some of the changes to seek community feedback.

Proposed changes to Fees and Charges 2026/27 | Nga Panonitanga e Tiitohuhia ana mo nga Utu me nga Nohonga

Overview | Tirohanga Whanui

When reviewing fees and charges, our general approach is to increase fees by inflation. For the 2026/27 year the inflation figure is 2.5%.

In some cases, inflation is not added and fees are kept the same. This may be for a number of reasons including fee increases in the previous year, or to align with fees for other services. In addition, some fees are set by legislation and cannot be changed at the Council's discretion.

For the 2026/27 year we're proposing to increase all fees and charges on average by 13%. This reflects the Council's decision that those who benefit most from a service pay directly for the service and to better reflect the actual and reasonable costs of providing services and activities to our communities.

Summary of increases

While on the whole fees and charges are increasing on average by 13% some fees have had different drivers, which are reflected in the increase. A summary of the fee change by activity is provided below:

Airfields

- Landing Fees are proposed to increase by between 13% and 67%.
- Price increases are to offset increased costs of the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Alcohol Licensing Charges

- Fees remain unchanged except for advertising, which is proposed to increase by 13% rounded up to the nearest \$5.
- Fees are set by the government, and any increase will be used to offset increased costs of the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Dog control

- Fees are proposed to be increased by 13% rounded up to the nearest \$5.
- No change is proposed for working farm dogs (for the first three working dogs, standard dog fees apply, for the fourth and additional dogs, there is no charge) or guide dogs.
- Price increases are to offset increased costs of the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Building Consent Administration Charges, Building Control – Monitoring & Information Fees

- Fees are proposed to increase by 13% to offset increased costs and reduce cross-subsidisation of the services being provided.

Cemeteries

- Plot purchases are proposed to increase by 13% to 36%.
- Interment Fees are proposed to increase by 13% except for Ashes that are proposed to increase from \$275 to \$500.
- Price increases in plot purchases and interment fees will be utilised to offset increased costs of the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from rates.
- Out of district services are proposed to increase from 75% to 85% to ensure that users of this service who are not ratepayers subsidise a higher proportion of the cost of providing the service.

Community Centres and Halls

- Hall prices are proposed to increase by 13% to offset the increase associated with operating costs and reduce level of cross subsidisation.
- No changes are proposed to the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre.

Consents including Engineering, Buildover and Infrastructure Charges

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% to offset the increase associated with operating costs of providing the service.
- Inclusion of a fee for Small Standalone Dwelling (Granny Flat) PIM in response to new legislation.
- Inclusion of a fee for Environmental Compliance and Monitoring Officer to provide clarity of charging of services.
- For clarity we have excluded the online fee from the proposed fee (online fees are a cost incurred by TCDC and then on charged at cost to the

customer).

District Map Plans, Electoral Roll, Legal Fees, Order Papers and Requests for Information

- Prices are proposed to increase by 13% to offset the increase associated with operating costs of providing the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation Rates.

Harbour Facilities

- It is proposed to increase district wide boat ramp charges by between 6% and 25% as follows:

Boat Ramp Launching With Trailer Parking combined Annual Fee	Old Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase
Launching only Annual Fee	\$120.00	\$150.00	\$30.00
Launching only Daily	\$52.00	\$60.00	\$8.00
Launching and Trailer parking combined	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$2.00
	\$34.00	\$36.00	\$2.00

- Increase commercial wharfage fee \$80.00 (per OAL/LOA metre/per annum) across all facilities (excluding Kopu Marine) an increase of between 7% and 40% depending on the district ward.
- Increase casual berthage to \$50.00 per berth/per day (excluding Kopu Marine) an increase of between 43 % and 47% depending on the ward.
- All other fees increase between 6% and 13%.
- Price increases will be used to offset costs associated with maintaining the harbour network across the district and reduce the level of cross subsidisation from Rates.

Health Licenses

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% to offset the increase associated with operating costs of providing the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Land Information Memoranda (LIM)

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% to offset the increase associated with operating costs of providing the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Libraries

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% with the exception of
 - Photocopying services for A4 and scanning remain unchanged
 - Daily commercial users of Meeting Rooms price increasing from \$42 to \$60.
- Price increases are to offset increased costs of the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from the Rates.

Parking Fees

- We are increasing our parking fees at Hot Water Beach the price increase proposed is provided below:

Hot Water Beach Carpark	Rate	25/26 Price	26/27 Price	Price Increase
Main Car Park	Hourly	\$4.50	\$6.00	\$1.50
Main Car Park	Daily	\$29.00	\$35.00	\$6.00
Taiwawe Car Park	Hourly	\$2.25	\$4.00	\$1.75
Taiwawe Car Park	Daily	\$17.00	\$25.00	\$8.00
Taiwawe Car Park – Bus	Hourly	\$5.15	\$10.00	\$4.85
Taiwawe Car Park – Bus	Daily	\$20.50	\$30.00	\$9.50

- Price increases will be utilised to offset increased costs of the service and ensure that there is sufficient capital available to maintain the facilities at Hot Water Beach.

Parks and Reserves including Mercury Bay Multi Sport Complex

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% except for commercial users for Minor and Large Events where we proposed to increase the fee by \$22 (47%) and \$37 (33%).
- Price increases are to offset increased costs of the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Rates Postponement

- Price adjusted to reflect average weight of cost of funds (interest rate).

Roading Fees

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% to offset the increase associated with operating costs of providing the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Rubbish, Waste and Recycling Bins, Refuse bags & Transfer Stations (Solid Waste Fees)

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% with the exception of:
 - Minimum charge for waste through a weigh bridge from \$5.00 to \$5.50 (10%)
 - Wheelie Bin lid clips increase by 10% from \$10.00 to \$11.00
 - Introduction of a fee to clarify that the use of a Standard Kerbside Refuse bin (140 litres) at a refuse station will be charged at the same rate as the Pay As You Throw (PAYT) tag.
 - No change to fees associated with the disposal of Whiteware and the degassing of AC Heat pumps, Fridges and Freezers
- Price increases are to offset increased costs of the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Swimming Pools

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% with the exception of Learn to Swim fees which remains unchanged (to encourage the community to learn to swim).
- Price increases are to offset increased costs of the service and reduce the level of cross-subsidisation from Rates.

Water Usage

- Standard water usage fee increases by 40% from \$1.71 to \$2.40 per cubic metre to balance the proportionality between funding sources, in line with previous years' submissions and to support funding fairness and equity for the waters activity.
- Extraordinary water usage fee for users of metered water in excess of 50,000 cubic metres per annum increases by 13% from \$1.36 to \$1.55 per cubic metre.

Water Meter Reading, Utility Connections and Septic Tanks Disposal

- Prices proposed to increase by 13% to offset the increase associated with operating costs of providing the service.

Proposed new fees

In addition, we're introducing some new fees for boat ramps, wharves, and cemeteries. These are being introduced to reflect the actual and reasonable costs of providing the service.

Wharves

New fees for overnight casual berthage (\$80 overnight) and electricity use (minimum charge \$10.00 per 12 hours).

As noted above we have also applied the same fee structure across all wharves across the district to provide clarity and avoid confusion. These include:

- Service Vehicle usage (\$10.00 for twelve hours)
- Security access tag (including lost card replacement \$50.00)
- Commercial Advertising/Signage (\$100.00 per annum)

Cemeteries

A new fee for burial services conducted on Saturday to reflect actual staff and recovery costs.

A new fee for is being introduced for Genealogy services. Demand for this service is increasing, and the purpose of the fee is to cover the cost associated with the increased demand on providing this service. The first hour for the service is free.

What are our options?

Option 1: Fees would increase by 2.5% to match inflation, and we would introduce new fees

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keeps fee increases modest ✓ Introduces new fees where it makes sense for users to cover the cost of service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Ratepayers continue to cover a larger share of the cost than some may think is fair ✗ Fees may not keep up with rising costs ✗ The balance between what users pay and what is funded by rates would stay the same.

Option 2: Increase fees by an average of 13% and introduce new fees

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Creates a fairer split between people who use services directly and those who don't ✓ Reduces pressure on rates by more of the cost directly through fees ✓ Helps services remain financially sustainable long-term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Higher fees may be difficult for some people to afford ✗ Some people may choose not to use certain services if fees increase

Legal considerations | Ngā Whakaarotanga ā-Ture

1) Consultation

The requirements for consultation for the different fees and charges contained in the Fees and Charges document vary depending on their enabling legislation as set out below.

a) *Fees and charges enabled through the Local Government Act 2002*

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) allows for councils to set fees and charges under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2002. The Council isn't required to consult on changes to these charges but may choose to do so if the changes are significant and it doesn't already have enough information on our communities' views and preferences.

Fees for certificates, authority, approval, permits, or consents more specifically can also be set under section 150 (where other legislation doesn't apply) through either:

- a bylaw or
- public consultation (using the principles of consultation in the LGA, Section 82).

Our fees set under the Local Government Act 2002 are done so under our general powers (section 12). We have decided that we would like feedback on some of the proposed changes before we make a decision. In this case we are required to follow the principles set under section 82 of the LGA. The requirements are for Council to – as far as is practicable - make the proposed fees and charges that we are consulting on available to those who may be affected by or have an interest in them.

b) *Fees and charges enabled through other legislation*

In addition, under other legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Council may prescribe fees or charges relevant to certain administration purposes (such as processing resource consents) through

- public consultation (using the special consultative procedure in the LGA, Section 83)

For consultation under the LGA Section 83, the requirements are for Council to make publicly available:

- a Statement of Proposal
- a summary of the information if necessary
- a description of how the community can present their views to Council
- a statement of the period within which views on the Fees and Charges may be provided to Council.

Council must make this information as widely available as is reasonably practicable as a basis for consultation and provide an opportunity for persons to present their views to Council.

Our approach to consultation on fees and charges

To ensure all legislative requirements are met as described above, consultation on the proposed changes to some of our Fees and Charges 2026/27 will be undertaken in accordance with the LGA, Section 83.

2) Revenue from Fees and Charges

Fees and charges made under section 150 of the LGA must not provide for the local authority to recover more than the reasonable costs incurred by the local authority for the matter for which the fee is charged. (LGA, Section 150 (4)).

Most of our other fees must be consistent with the our Revenue and Financing Policy sets out the proportion of funding that may be recovered from fees and charges for each of Council's activities, which was publically consulted on. (LGA, Section 103).

Have Your Say | Tukua mai ō whakaaro

We invite your feedback on our proposed fees and charges 2026/27 changes to assist us in the decision-making process. Visit our website and our 'Tough choices for lower rates' consultation document to learn how to give feedback.