

## Water quality

### Groundwater quality

We collect and analyse quality samples of our freshwater stored in aquifers every three months, at more than 70 sites in Wairoa, Taharua, Heretaunga, and Ruataniwha.

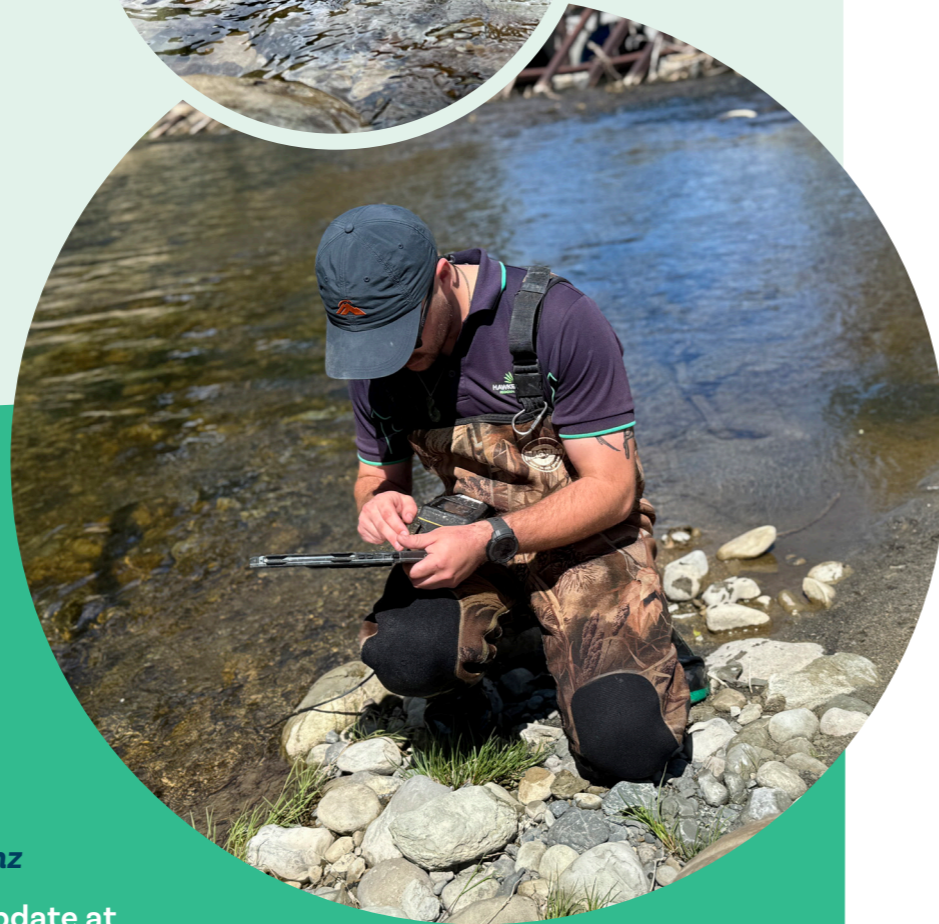
### Surface water quality and ecology

We sample water quality and ecology every month across the region's rivers, lakes, and estuaries, including monitoring nutrients, faecal contamination, macroinvertebrate communities, sediment, water temperature, habitat quality, and dissolved oxygen. This helps us keep track of ecosystem health at many freshwater and marine sites.

We also run continuous water quality monitoring stations at four rivers and three lakes, giving real time insight into fluctuating conditions. Using environmental DNA (eDNA), we identify the freshwater fish, invertebrates, and other organisms living in streams and rivers. Alongside this, we assess fish populations in wadeable streams and maintain a database of structures in waterways that may block fish passage.

### Land science

We maintain a network of remote automated tools that collect sediment data from waterways during flood events. Across the region, we also track soil quality. The 2025-26 programme focused on orchard and vineyard soils. In addition, we monitor the health of 42 wetlands to understand how these threatened ecosystems are changing over time.



## How do you find out about the monitoring results?

Monitoring data is available at [hbc.govt.nz](https://hbc.govt.nz), search #envirodata and Land Air Water Aotearoa at [lawa.co.nz](https://lawa.co.nz)

You can find our Monthly environment update at [hbc.govt.nz](https://hbc.govt.nz), search #meu

Find out more on our science work at [hbc.govt.nz](https://hbc.govt.nz), search #freshwater  
[hbc.govt.nz](https://hbc.govt.nz), search #groundwater  
[hbc.govt.nz](https://hbc.govt.nz), search #watermanagement

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

# Annual Freshwater Science Charges



## What you need to know

The annual freshwater science charges help to fund environmental monitoring work carried out by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. The work we do helps to build a bigger picture of the health of our catchments. Our science informs how we can sustainably use our freshwater resources, which promotes economic development and sustains our communities.

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) enables councils to recover costs incurred by monitoring the state of the environment.

## Why have you been sent this invoice?

As the consent holder, in accordance with section 36 of the RMA and the Regional Council's Annual Plan 2025-26, you are responsible for these charges. The charges apply whether or not you use the consent or lease the land to someone else.

## What are the annual consent charges?

There are three types of annual charges for consents. Not all consents are charged all of these.

Annual Consent fees =

- + Compliance monitoring
- + Compliance administration
- + Freshwater science

This invoice includes freshwater science charges for the 2025-26 financial year. Compliance monitoring charges and compliance administration are invoiced separately

## Payments and contact information

### ONLINE AND PHONE BANKING:

**06 0067 0346508 00**

Quote the customer number on your invoice.

This bank account number is different to the one you use to pay your annual rates.

### OVER THE COUNTER

Call into our office at 159 Dalton Street Napier and pay by eftpos or cash.

### For further advice:

Phone: (06) 835 9200

Email: [FWsciencecharges@hbc.govt.nz](mailto:FWsciencecharges@hbc.govt.nz)

# What are the charges on this invoice?

You are charged for the number and type of resource consents you hold.

## 1. Freshwater science charge

These annual fixed charges are for the costs of performing science investigations and monitoring to manage and inform on effects, or potential effects, on the quantity and quality of the region's freshwater resources. A summary of this work is on the next page. The Regional Council recovers 15% (Quality) and 35% (Quantity) of the cost of freshwater management science and monitoring directly from resource consent holders, 20% (Quality) from targeted rates, and the remaining 65% is funded by general rates.

Charges for discharge to land or water consents are based on the scale of the consented discharge activity and based on whether the receiving body of the discharge is land or water. Charges for water take consents are based on the consented weekly volume of take (not actual use) on a tiered rate.

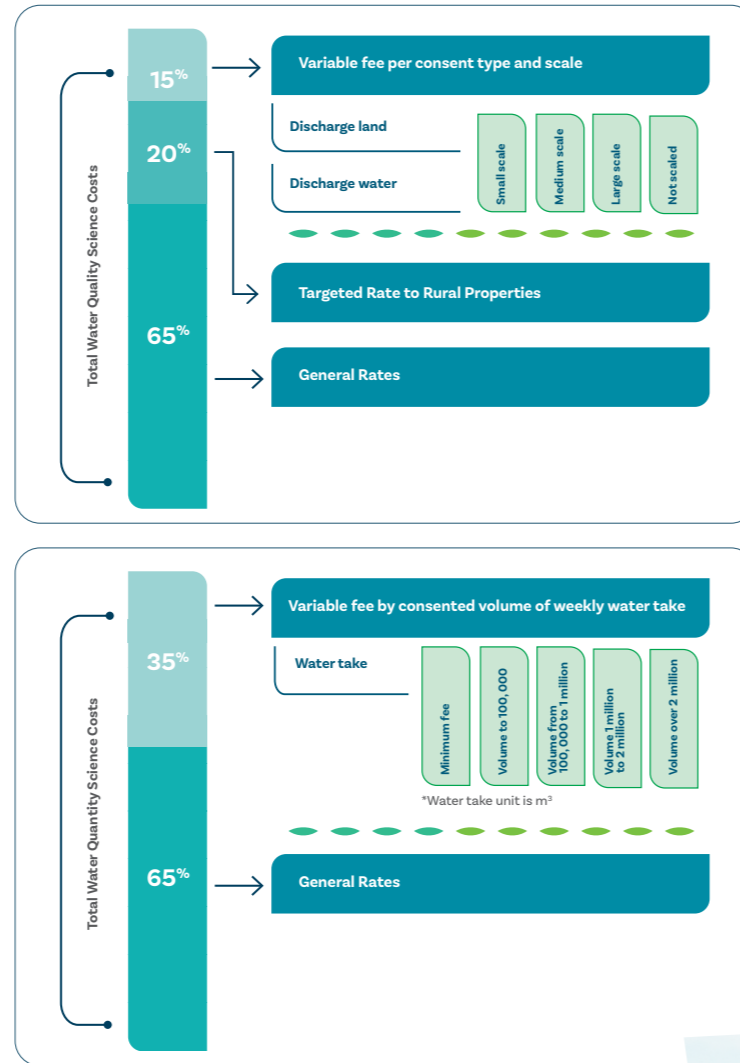
Head to [hbrc.govt.nz](https://hbrc.govt.nz), search #sciencecharges for the discharge consent scale definitions and fee schedule.

## 2. Low flows monitoring administration charge

This annual charge recovers the costs of monitoring the regions waterways to identify when there are low flows. The charge applies if your water take consent conditions require you to stop or reduce taking water when a river or stream flow falls below the specified low flow level. This is a fixed charge of \$250 (exc GST) and applies to all consents with low flow conditions. Due to reduced costs of monitoring low flows in the 2025-26 financial period, this fee will be reduced this year to \$85 (exec. GST).

## 3. Annual water measuring device administration charge

These annual fixed charges fund the Water Information Services team and include administration and processing of water meter installation records and water meter data. The fixed charges are set according to the number of meters installed. There is also a small charge for consents that are not being used or not yet exercised.



For more information about the Regional Council's Fees and User Charges Policy, check out our Three Year Plan 2024-2027 [hbrc.govt.nz](https://hbrc.govt.nz) search #LTP and go to part 6 and page 190.

# Our science work programmes

We monitor the state of our climate, air, land, freshwater bodies, aquifers, coastal, and marine environment to understand the health of as well as our impact on these natural resources. We use this work to inform good decision making internally, and for our communities on how we can better manage our environment together.

These freshwater science charges help to fund the work we do to monitor the quality and quantity of our region's freshwater. Find out more in the sections below.

## State of the Environment (SoE)

### Three-yearly report

Our State of the Environment (SoE) programmes help us track how resource development is affecting the environment. We publish an updated report every three years – our latest, covering 2021-2024, came out in July 2025

You can find our 2021-24 State of the Environment report at [hbrc.govt.nz](https://hbrc.govt.nz), search #SOE

### Monthly environment update

This report is based on data from our monitoring projects and external agencies. Our monthly report updates cover water quality at swimming spots over the summer months and river flows.

Sign up for the report here, [hbrc.govt.nz](https://hbrc.govt.nz), search #MEU

## Water quantity

### Groundwater quantity

Hundreds of wells are used across Hawke's Bay, particularly in the Heretaunga and Ruataniwha plains. These wells are used to extract groundwater for uses including industry, public water supplies, and irrigation. Our aim is to ensure that there is enough fresh water to support the environment, our people, and our economy.

Every month, we monitor the groundwater levels of over 100 wells across the region to help us see whether the region's water use has a negative impact on groundwater levels and connected surface water bodies.

You can find out more about the wells at [hbrc.govt.nz](https://hbrc.govt.nz), search #groundwater

### Surface water quantity

We monitor our region's rivers and streams monthly. This includes the collection and monitoring of water levels, flows, and rainfall.

