

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

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 to understand and sustainably manage the region's freshwater resources. Our science work informs how we use our resources sustainably and conducted on behalf of consent holders for the benefit of the region. The sustainable use of the region's resources promotes economic development and sustains our communities.

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act enables Councils to recover costs incurred by monitoring the state of the environment.

Why have you been sent this invoice?

As part of your consent conditions 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 compliance administration and freshwater science charges for the 2023/24 financial year. Compliance monitoring charges are invoiced separately.

Payments and contact information

ONLINE AND PHONE BANKING:

02-0700-0302819-00
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 more information

hbrc.govt.nz, search: #taking water
hbrc.govt.nz, search: #airlandwater

For further advice:

Durelle Lawrie (06) 835 9200,
FWsciencecharges@hbrc.govt.nz


HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

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 underpin the sustainable management of the region's freshwater resources. A summary of this work is on the next page. The Regional Council recovers 35% of the cost of freshwater management science and monitoring directly from resource consent holders, and the remaining 65% is funded by general rates.

This year, the water quality science and monitoring activities have continued to have a greater emphasis on understanding the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle on our freshwater resources. Accordingly, Council have agreed to discount the freshwater science charges for discharge resource consents this year. You will see this as a credit applied on your invoice.

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, search: #sciencecharges for the discharge consent scale definitions and fee schedule.

2. Low flows monitoring administration charge

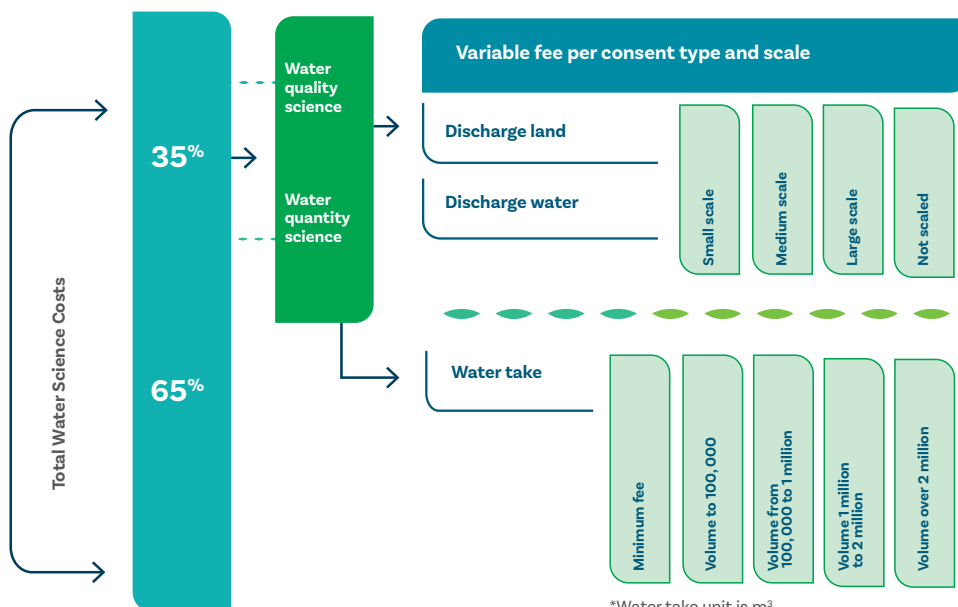
This annual charge recovers the costs of monitoring the regions waterways to identify when there are low flows. The charge applies if your watertake consent conditions require you to stop or reduce taking water when a river or stream flow falls below the specified low flow level. This is a fixed charge of \$250 (exc GST) and applies to all consents with low flow conditions. As there have been reduced incidents of low flows in the 2023/24 financial period, this fee will be reduced this year to \$50 (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.

Have you been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle?

If you have been financially impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle making it difficult to pay these charges this year, please give us a call to discuss your options.



For more information about the Regional Council's fees and charges, check out our 2021-31 Long Term Plan hbrc.govt.nz, search: #ltp2131 and go to part 6 on page 210.



Our science work programmes

We monitor the state of our air, climate, coastal and marine environments, land and waterways to understand the health of our natural resources, and our impact on these resources. Through this work we develop strategies and plans to advise our communities on how we can better manage our environment together.

The freshwater science charges help to fund the work we do to monitor the quality and quantity of our region's freshwater, and you can see more detail about this work in the sections below.

Over the next year our science programmes will be focusing on assessing the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on our natural systems. This includes monitoring how the cyclone has altered the ecosystems, and the health of our rivers, lakes and estuaries. Understanding how the cyclone has affected these areas, and how they will recover, is fundamental to bringing these areas back to health and building environmental resilience.

Water quantity

State of the Environment (SOE)

Our SOE reports are a fundamental and important part of our science research.

Every three years we publish an updated report, our most recent report for 2018 - 21 was published in July 2022. Currently we're underway working on our 2021-24 report which will include an assessment of the impact of climate extremes on our freshwater systems.

You can find our 2018-21 SOE report at hbrc.govt.nz, search: [#soe3year](#).

We also produce monthly SOE reports based on data from our monitoring projects, and external agencies.

You can find these reports at hbrc.govt.nz, search: [#soemonthly](#)

Groundwater quantity

Hundreds of wells are used in the Heretaunga Plains to extract groundwater for uses including industry, public water supplies and irrigation. Our aim is to ensure that there remains enough fresh water to support the environment, our people and our economy.

Every month we monitor the groundwater levels of 107 wells across the region to see whether the region's water use has an adverse impact on groundwater levels and connected surface water bodies.

You can access information about these wells at hbrc.govt.nz, search: [#groundwater](#)

Surface water quantity

We monitor Hawke's Bay's rivers and streams monthly and we collect and monitor water levels, flows and rainfall on-time and to relevant standards.

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Regional groundwater research

Water management is crucially important for the future of our region, and that's why we used the latest airborne electromagnetic survey technology to give us a look at our aquifers deep underground.

We are processing the data and developing rich 3D aquifer maps that will be used to improve the management of groundwater resources in the region.

We are also improving our existing groundwater model for the Ruataniwha Basin, using new data and modelling improvements to better inform water management solutions.



The Annual Freshwater Science Charge helps fund the following monitoring and reports.

Surface water quality and ecology monitoring

- Monthly water quality and ecology monitoring at 103 sites on rivers and estuaries, and five lakes.
- Monitoring of fish populations in 20 wadeable streams.
- Ecosystem health monitoring at 50 sites in the Tukituki, Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro, and Karamū catchments.
- Monthly water quality monitoring of Lakes Tūtira and Whakakī.
- Continuous water quality monitoring stations at four rivers and three lakes.

Regional surface water quality and ecological research

- Environmental DNA (eDNA) testing to identify the presence of freshwater fish, invertebrates and other biodiversity in streams and rivers.
- Faecal source tracking to determine origins of animal, bird or human contamination in our waterways.
- Development and maintenance of a database of structures in streams and rivers that create a barrier for fish to swim over or around.

Groundwater quality monitoring

- Collection and analysis of groundwater quality samples every three months at more than 70 sites across the region; in Wairoa, Taharua, Heretaunga and Ruataniwha.
- An expanding network of remote automated sampling tools to collect sediment data during flood events.

- Regional soil quality monitoring programme with a focus on cropping land.
- Regional wetland monitoring programme.
- Monitoring of the Taharua River and upper Mohaka River to assess the impact of land use on these waterways.

State of the Environment (SOE)

- A monthly SOE report including water quantity. You can find the SOE reports at hbrc.govt.nz, search: #soemonthly

Regional land monitoring

- Monitoring of riparian margins.



How do you find out about the monitoring results?

Monitoring data is available at hbrc.govt.nz, search: #soemonthly and Land Air Water Aotearoa at lawa.co.nz

You can find our monthly State of the Environment report at hbrc.govt.nz, search: #soemonthly
You can find our 3 yearly SOE 2018-2021 report at hbrc.govt.nz, search: #soe3year

Find out more on our science work on

hbrc.govt.nz, search: #freshwater

hbrc.govt.nz, search: #groundwater

hbrc.govt.nz, search: #watermanagement