

Your guide to:

Resource Consent Charges

EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2025 TO 30 JUNE 2026

A handy guide to what you need to know

Here at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, we're all about keeping you informed. So we've put this guide together to give you an idea of what costs you'll incur when you apply for/hold a Resource Consent.

Many of our Resource Management Act functions are covered by way of costs to applicants and consent holders. There are charges for costs incurred in assessing and processing all consent applications, including the cost of staff time, contractors, scientists, councillors and commissioners, with a combination of fixed charges (deposits) and additional charges for consent processing. Each consent also attracts **annual charges**.

In this brochure, we've outlined the charges involved inclusive of GST to show total cost.

Let us know what you think

We're pleased to invite you to share your views on plans and funding (including the charges mentioned here) during the draft annual plan consultation period in April/May every year.

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Need more information?

For everything you need to know about the Regional Council accounting and resource management policies have a look at [hbrc.govt.nz](https://www.hbrc.govt.nz), search #annualplans.

You'll find full details of our accounting policies and resource management charges there in our Three year Plan 2024-2027.



The Environmental Science, Consents & Compliance sections are ISO 9001:2015 certified.


HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Fixed charges

We set fixed charges (deposits) at the three stages of the application process. You'll find them in the table on page 3.

- Fixed charge payable upon application.
- Fixed charge payable prior to notification (if required).
- Fixed charge payable 5 working days before the start of a hearing scheduled to decide the application (if required).

Who has to pay fixed charges?

Charges are invoiced directly to the applicant or legal holder of the resource consent. **If a consent holder wishes to pass on any charge to a third party (such as a lessee) this is a private agreement, in which the Regional Council will not be involved.**

How do you pay?

Other than the fixed charges listed above, charges are payable on the 20th of the month following date of invoice. You can pay consent invoices:

- In person at the Regional Council offices at 159 Dalton Street, Napier
- By internet banking (ANZ - 06 0067 0346508 00)
- Online at hbrc.govt.nz/pay-it.

A payment reference (your application number) for the required deposit will be emailed to you by the Consent Advisor upon receipt of your completed application forms. Once this reference (application number) is received you can make /payment via online banking to the account above.

What happens if charges aren't paid?

If any fixed charge is not paid by the due date, then the Regional Council reserves the right to stop processing the application (under RMA, s36(7)). This may include the cancellation of a hearing. The applicant will be charged for any costs that may arise from the cancellation or postponement of a hearing due to the non-payment of a fixed charge.

All debt collection costs incurred by the Regional Council in relation to the activities covered in this section shall be borne as a debt by the party whose actions caused the initial charge.

Resource Consent & Land Ownership

A resource consent is a legal document owned by an individual or an entity; it is not 'tied' to a property. Therefore, the sale of a property does not mean the consent automatically changes hands.

If you have sold your property and do not want to retain ownership or responsibility for the consent, you can transfer the consent. This can be done either at time of sale by yourself or your lawyer, or as soon as possible afterwards.

Consents do not have to be held by the land or property owner. Any person can apply for consent, on any property. Consent does not guarantee land access to carry out the consented activity.

If the consented activity is no longer being carried out, such as a discharge or water take, the consent holder can surrender the consent. It is important to note that if you wish to re-instate a previously surrendered consent, this will be considered a new consent application - which may or may not be granted.

Additional charges

Each application will incur processing costs for administration, assessment and the preparation of recommendations to a decision-maker. The exact processing time will vary from application to application. Additional Actual and Reasonable Charges will apply when the fixed charge (deposits) are insufficient to cover these processing costs. It is difficult to accurately predict the staff time required to process each application.

Staff time is charged using this formula:

Charge = staff time (hours) x staff charge-out rate.

The following list gives an indication of some of the additional work that may be required on some (but not all) applications:

- Discussions with affected and interested parties
- Administrative time
- Travel to, and time spent at, the application site
- Preparation of application for public notification and identification of potentially affected parties
- Actual costs for hiring technical/legal, planning or cultural experts to provide input into the consents process
- Actual hearing costs
- Request for further information or commissioning of a report- s92.

Staff charge out rates (incl GST) used to calculate actual costs	Per hour
Executive	\$257.60
Regional asset management	\$187.45
Environmental science	\$187.45
Consent processing	\$187.45
Resource consent administration	\$134.55
Compliance and impact monitoring of consents	\$187.45
Environmental Information	\$123.05

Charging for consultants

Where consultants are used to provide technical, planning or cultural input to the consent process, the applicant will be responsible for their costs (as per RMA, s36 (1)).

Objecting to additional charges

If you consider that any additional charges invoiced after the processing of your application are not actual, or are unreasonable, you have the right to object. Objections (in writing) must be received by the Regional Council within 15 working days of receipt of the invoice. An objection cannot be made with respect to any fixed charge.

Find our forms or contact us

All our consent forms can be found online at hbrc.govt.nz, search: #consents or call our Consents Advisor on **06 835 9200** or email consentadvisor@hbrc.govt.nz

Resource Consent Application Processing

Resource Consent Application Processing – Fixed and additional charges (all charges include GST)

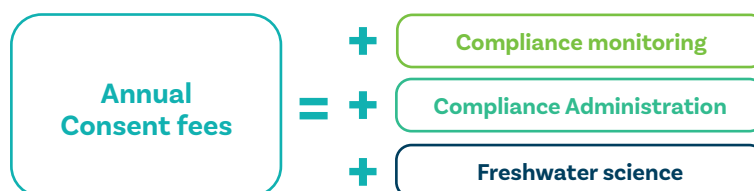
Application type	Total cost =			
	2	+2	+3	+4
<p>Application forms can be found online at: hbc.govt.nz, search: #consent or at the Regional Council offices at 159 Dalton Street, Napier</p>	<p>Fixed charge per application lodged. Applications will not be accepted without deposit</p>	<p>If notification is required. Fixed charge per application notified</p>	<p>If a hearing is required. Fixed charge per application proceeding to a Hearing</p>	<p>Additional charge per application. If the total cost of processing exceeds the fixed charges (1+2+3)</p>
<p>Resource consent applications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To take and use surface water - To take and use groundwater - To dam or divert water - To discharge contaminants from composting to land and air - To discharge contaminants to air, land or water - To discharge dairy shed and/or feed pad effluent to land, and to discharge odour and airborne contaminants to air - To discharge piggery effluent to land - To discharge pumped subsurface drainage water - To discharge stormwater - For activities affecting river control and drainage schemes (rule 71) - For structures within coastal hazard zones - To use, disturb or develop the bed of a lake / river / sea - Other consent applications 	\$2300.00	\$5750.00	\$11,500.00	Yes
Gravel Extraction as on page 1 of the Fees and Charges Schedule	\$1150.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
Review of conditions as per RMA s128 (1) (a), 1 (c) or (2)	\$1725.00		Yes	
Application to replace an existing consent as part of a catchment wide process	\$2300.00	\$1725.00	\$2300.00	Yes
All other applications to replace an existing consent	\$2300.00	\$5750.00	\$11,500.00	Yes
Change or cancel conditions of an existing consent	\$862.50	\$5750.00	\$11,500.00	Yes
Transfer a consent to another site	\$1,725.00	\$5750.00	\$11,500.00	Yes
Extension of lapse date	\$1150.00	\$5750.00	\$11,500.00	Yes
Transfer of resource consent - from current owner to a new owner or occupier of the site (one form per property)	1 consent \$230.00 2+ consent \$287.50	n/a	n/a	Yes
Land use application for bore permit	\$1,150	n/a	n/a	Yes
Land use for bore field where 3 or more bores are to be drilled for the same purpose on the same site (or in close proximity)	\$1,725.00	n/a	n/a	Yes
Deemed permitted activity	\$1725.00	n/a	n/a	Yes
Certificate of Compliance (excluding bore sealing)	\$1725.00	n/a	n/a	Yes
Certificate of compliance providing confirmation of domestic on-site wastewater permitted activity status	\$862.50	n/a	n/a	Yes
Change of applicant - for a resource consent application in progress	No application charge	n/a	n/a	No
When payable	Payment must accompany application	Payment prior to notification	Must be paid a minimum of 5 working days prior to start of Hearing	Must be paid within 20 working days of invoice

Note that the fees shown above are a deposit to be paid on lodgement of an application or at other stages of the process. The deposit will often not cover the full cost of processing the application, and further actual and reasonable costs are incurred at the rate shown in the scale of charges. GST is included in all fees and charges. Costs for applications are typically invoiced at the end of process.

Further clarification on costs can be found in the Three-year Plan 2024-2027 Fees and User Charges Policy, available online or on request.

Annual Consent Charges

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



Compliance monitoring:

Compliance monitoring ensures that you meet the conditions of your consent, which in turn safeguards our environment. The Regional Council is the statutory body under the Resource Management Act required to carry out this regulatory function.

Compliance monitoring costs are recovered from the consent holder. Consent holders with a domestic on-site wastewater treatment system type that is not on the Regional Council's Accredited Manufacturer list, and who do not have that system installed and serviced by a person or company on the Accredited Installer and Service Agent list may be subject to an annual monitoring cost, as per the table below.

Holders of consents that require annual inspection, and/or information return, and/or a sampling undertaken by Regional Council staff will be charged based on the actual and reasonable costs to undertake the total annual monitoring activity. This will be calculated by multiplying the actual hours involved in undertaking monitoring of the consent by the hourly rate for the staff involved and adding any actual disbursements. These charges are invoiced after inspections, or invoiced quarterly for the consents that either have more than one inspection or ongoing monitoring throughout the year.

Consent holders should check the conditions of their consent to determine whether sampling, water use or other information is required. For new consents, the consent holder will be advised of the likely annual monitoring requirements when the consent is issued; thereafter the previous year's monitoring costs will act as an indication of monitoring costs. Consent holders will be charged an additional administration fee for late submission of records and monitoring reports required to be supplied under the conditions of the consent.

Activity	Charge (inc GST)
On-site wastewater treatment - non-accredited - annual monitoring fee	\$460.00
Late submission of data and information returns	\$215.05
Monitoring of consents which require annual inspection, and/or information return, and/or sampling undertaken	Actual and reasonable costs of staff time incurred
Monitoring of National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry permitted activities	
Additional monitoring as a result or non-compliance with consent conditions	
Issuing of abatement notice as listed on page 3 of the Fees and User Charges Schedule 2025-2056	\$215.05

Compliance Administration:

Consent administration fee

Holders of consents that require ongoing monitoring, will be charged an annual consent administration fee of \$97.75 (inc GST). This annual charge covers routine administration costs such as consent computer database and file system maintenance, compiling and monitoring accounts, correspondence to consent holders (e.g. around expiring consents) and general administration and enquiries. This fee is in addition to actual and reasonable charges for compliance monitoring or non-compliance investigation and follow ups.

Exemptions to the annual compliance administration charge include the following consent types; short-term gravel extraction, water takes, residential domestic effluent systems (permitted activity and accredited/non-accredited systems), bore permits, forestry permitted activities, land use permitted activities, and consents that no longer require monitoring.

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.

Administrative charge	Annual charge (inc GST)
Annual water measuring device (for first meter)	\$264.50
Annual water measuring device (for each additional meter)	\$63.25
Annual water measuring device (non-exercised consent)	\$51.75

Low flows monitoring administration charge

For holders of consents to take water, where the abstraction is subject to low flow limits (directly or via gallery intake or wells), the cost of monitoring the low flows will be recovered via an annual fixed charge to each water take consent subject to low flow restrictions. This is a fixed charge of \$287.50 (inc GST) per consent.

Freshwater Science charges:

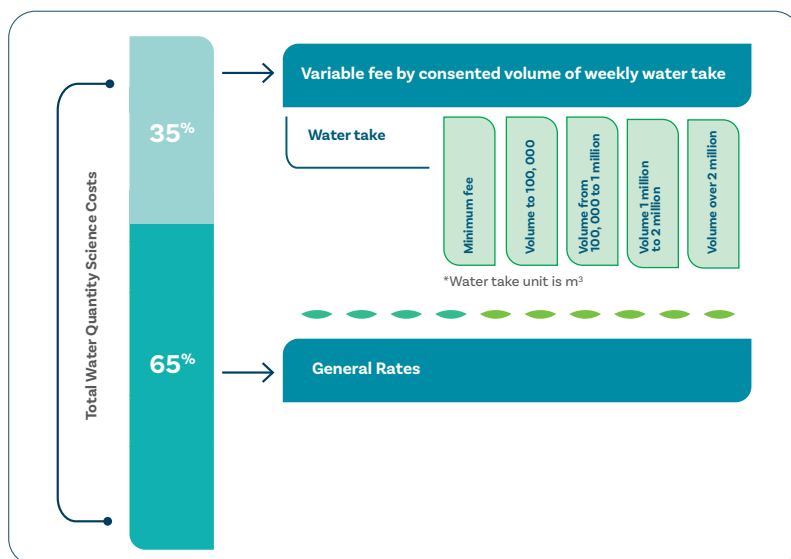
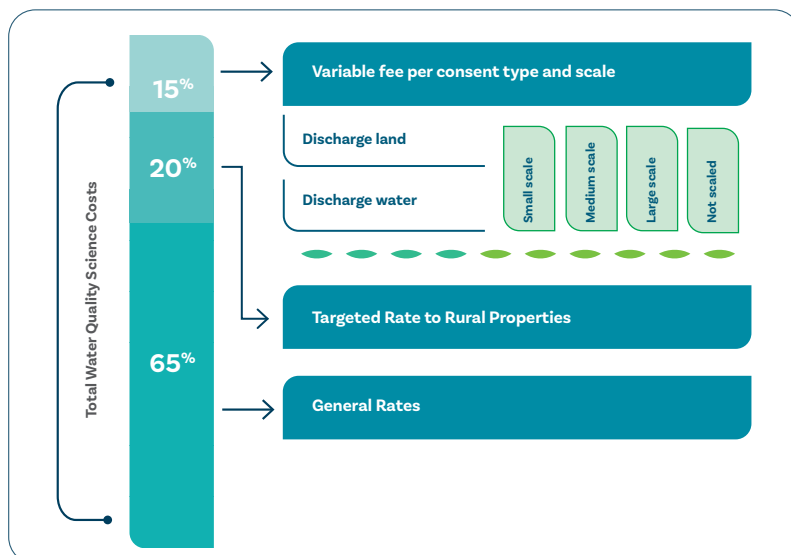
Discharges to water or land, and water take consent holders are charged for the costs of performing science investigations and monitoring to manage and inform on effects, or potential effects, on the Region's freshwater resources. These charges are authorised by Section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Benefits to consent holders of this science include the protection of the resource through its management on a sustainable basis and early warning of changes in resources.

As per the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Revenue and Finance Policy, the costs of performing freshwater quantity and quality science research and monitoring is shared between ratepayers and consent holders as depicted in the diagrams.

- The 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.
- The charges for water take consents are based on the consented maximum weekly volume of take (not actual use) on a tiered rate, based on volume.

For more information about the 2025-26 freshwater science charges fee schedule, go to [hbrc.govt.nz](https://www.hbrc.govt.nz), search: #sciencecharges.

For further information, refer to the fees and charges section of the Three-year Plan 2024-2027.



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