

Statement of Proposal

Proposed changes to Council's Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27

Nga utu 2026/27

We're reviewing our fees and charges for 2026/27. We do this so we can keep providing great community services and facilities, process applications, and meet our legal responsibilities.

You can make a submission on the proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27 from 29 April to 5pm 29 May 2026.

If we adopt the new fees and charges after consultation and hearings, they will come into effect from 1 July 2026.

What are Fees and Charges?

Fees and charges help us pay for services and activities. Instead of covering the full cost through rates, some costs are recovered from the people who use the service. This helps share costs between ratepayers and service users. In general, services that benefit the wider community – like libraries and reserves – are funded more through rates.



Why are they changing?

Our costs have increased due to inflation, higher interest rates, and other national and global factors, including rising fuel prices. Like many councils across Aotearoa New Zealand, we need to review fees and charges to reflect these higher costs.

Some new fees and increases are proposed so we can better balance what is paid through rates and what is paid by service users, and so we can cover the true cost of delivering services. We are really mindful of cost-of-living pressures on households and businesses, and we've worked hard to keep fees and charges as fair and affordable as possible.

What we've done

To complete a review of fees and charges we have:

- Adjusted fees and charges by the rate of inflation
- Changed fees and charges to align with new legislation and regulations
- Identified where fees need to increase to keep up with rising costs
- Ensured fee increases align with our Revenue and Financing Policy

What we're proposing

The full list of proposed changes is outlined in the Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule for 2026/27, which can be found online at koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz/fees-charges-proposal-2026-27 or as a hard copy at Whakatāne District Council or Murupara Service Centre. The schedule shows the current fee alongside the proposed new fee.

At a glance, we're proposing to:

- 1** Update Three Waters fees and charges to align with Local Water Done Well and the Backflow Prevention Policy
- 2** Introduce new fees and charges for new services, or where costs are not currently being recovered
- 3** Increase some existing fees and charges where costs have risen beyond inflation or are not in line with market rates
- 4** Apply inflationary adjustments to fees including Resource Consent and Food Control fees



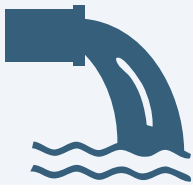
Three Waters



We're proposing to update water charges to meet the government's Local Water Done Well requirements. These changes mean councils must clearly separate (or "ring-fence") water services from the rest of council finances, and be more transparent about the true cost of providing them.

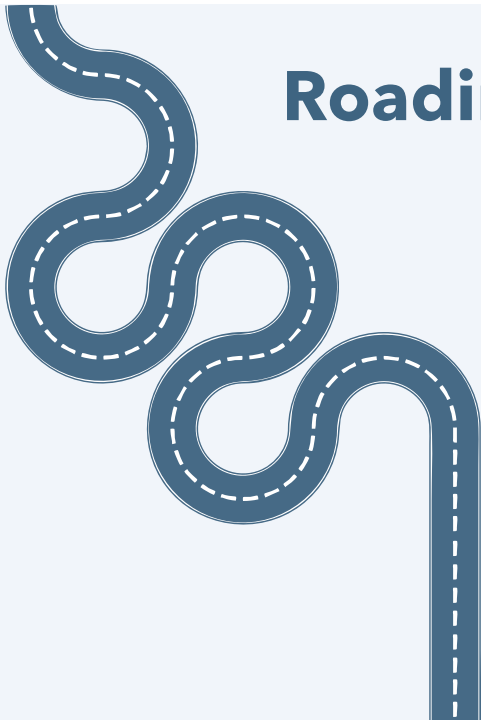


The proposed changes to the fees and charges will improve transparency, support auditing, and help us to meet legal requirements. The proposed changes will also help us to implement the Backflow Prevention Policy which aims to protect drinking water by ensuring properties connected to the Council's water supply have the right backflow prevention device.



Most urban residential properties connected to the Council's water supply will have a non-testable dual-check valve installed, which does not require annual testing, so there are no ongoing costs to property owners. However, properties classified as medium and high-risk, including rural domestic properties with animals fed through troughs, will require a testable backflow prevention device, which must be tested every year as mandated by NZ legislation (\$120 annual fee).

Roading



We are proposing four new charges to cover ongoing costs associated with development activity:

- \$500 application fee for urgent or late corridor access, traffic management plans or road closures
- \$75 administration fee for requests for time extensions for traffic management plans, or corridor access
- \$1,000 minimum road damage bond, to be held by the Council or appropriately guaranteed, for potential damage to assets located in the road corridor because of development. A bond may be imposed as a condition of a resource or building consent
- Road naming and renaming application fee (actual cost)



Ports



To cover the cost of maintaining and repairing our ports, we are proposing new charges for unauthorised berthage and for boat ramp access for both residents and out of town users:

- \$220 for users for unauthorised berthage
- \$20 one-off fee for residents using boat ramps
- \$20 per day for visitors using Whakatāne and Ōhope boat ramps
- \$10 per day for visitors using Thornton and Ōhiwa boat ramps

We are also proposing to increase the boat wash fee from \$2 per minute to \$3 per minute to better reflect operating costs.

Food control and compliance



We are proposing changes to fees and charges relating to general licence, registration, verifications and compliance (Food Act 2014 and Health Act 1956) to cover costs:

- \$30 new charge for the printing of food control plans
- \$160 per hour charge for national programme verifications (increased from \$155 per hour)
- \$160 per hour for multi-site verifications where the time spent exceeds 6.5 hours in the case of new verifications and after 5.0 hours in the case of subsequent verifications (increased from \$155 per hour)
- All other fees have been inflated by a rate of 2.3%

Community halls



To better recover cleaning and hall access costs we are proposing the following new charges:

- \$60 per hire/per day waste disposal fee at Whakatāne War Memorial Hall (by request)
- \$10 per user per year for the Salto mobile app, plus \$20 for hall access
- \$100 per hour cleaning fee for all public hall hire (noting that the hirer can opt to clean the venue themselves)

Resource consents



The Resource Management Act 1991 allows Council to set fees to recover the reasonable costs of processing and monitoring resource consents. These fees reflect the benefit to the applicant rather than the wider community.

We propose an inflationary increase of 2.3% to resource consent fees.



Building

Due to new legislation for small stand-alone dwellings, along with new charges from our online service provider, we are proposing:

- \$1,000 deposit for Project Information Memoranda for small stand-alone dwellings (actual cost to be charged)
- \$250 online service provider levy (GST excl.).

Proposed increases to other building related fees and charges are outlined in the table below.

Description	Current	Proposed
Building Consent charge out rate per hour	\$115 - \$280	\$130 - \$300
Project Information Memoranda	\$330 + actual cost	\$500
Online Service Provider Levy	\$80	\$80 - \$84
Fixed initial deposits for building consent application (plus online Service Provider Levy):		
• less than \$10,000	\$515	\$550
• \$10,001- \$25,000	\$770	\$750
Application for extension of time	\$145	\$150
Solid fuel heater – set cost (including one inspection and online service provider levy)	\$385	\$550
Certificate of Acceptance – Deposit payable on application, plus all additional processing, inspection, and specialist costs charged on a time and cost basis		
Application fee (excludes urgent work)	Actual Cost	Deposit \$1,000 + actual cost
Online Service Provider Fee	(minimum charge \$1,000)	
1. Value of work up to \$124,999	\$80 (excl GST)	\$84 (excl GST)
2. Value of work over \$125,000	\$350 (excl GST)	\$370 (excl GST)
Any other inspection performed by the Council	Actual cost (minimum charge \$150)	Actual cost (minimum charge \$180)
Registration/revocation of registration of section 36 or 37 Building Act 1991 or section 72 of Building Act 2004 notification	\$275	\$430
Application for exemption (Schedule 1 only)	\$250 or actual cost	\$300 + actual cost
Cost for building consent projects to be added to property files Information transfer to Territorial Authority (s238)	\$440	\$500



Libraries and museum



We are proposing to introduce new charges for room hire at our library and museum facilities:

- \$20 per hour commercial rate for the 'Murupara Room'
- \$20 per hour commercial rate / \$10 per hour community rate for the 'Pipi Room'
- 'Pāua Room' – price on application
- We also propose moving other rooms from session pricing to hourly pricing: \$10 per hour commercial rate / \$5 per hour community rate for the 'Eastern Bay Energy Trust Room' (existing charge is \$35 per 3.5 hour session)
- \$35 per hour commercial rate / \$15 per hour community rate for the 'Activity Room' (existing charge is \$87 per 3.5 hour session)



In addition, we are proposing to increase the interlibrary loan fee for items from reciprocal libraries from \$8 to \$10.

Cemeteries and crematorium



We are proposing three new charges relating to our cemeteries and crematorium:

- \$250 for self-backfill for burials
- \$500 administration fee for family-led cremations
- \$250 oversized casket fee for cremations

In addition, we are proposing to increase the cost of a natural burial plot to \$2,807 (currently \$2,360).

Parks and reserves

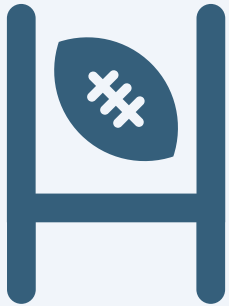


We are proposing changes to the charging structure for application and processing fees for the hiring of parks and reserves due to the administration and processing time needed. Instead of a \$46 flat fee, we are proposing charging based on event risk:

- \$47 for low-risk events
- \$90 for medium-risk events
- \$150 for high-risk events
- \$169 for late application fee (applied every three days overdue)



Sportsground rentals



To help recover ongoing maintenance costs from lighting, we are proposing to increase sportsground rentals by \$250 on top of inflationary adjustments:

- **Rugby Park - Eastern Bay of Plenty Rugby Sub-Union**
\$1,412.50 incl inflation + \$250 = \$1,662.50
- **Eivers Park - Te Teko Rugby Club**
\$1,412.50 incl inflation + \$250 = \$1,662.50
- **Tāneatua Domain and Recreational Reserve - Tāneatua Rugby Football Club Inc**
\$1,412.50 incl inflation + \$250 = \$1,662.50
- **Waimana Domain - Waimana Rugby Club**
\$941.50 incl. inflation + \$250 = \$1191.50

Whakatāne Aquatic Centre



Fees and charges increases proposed for our Whakatāne swimming pool include:

- \$3.60 for a child (5- 16 yrs) or beneficiaries (currently \$3.50)
- \$5 for a student or seniors (currently \$3.50)
- \$5 shower fee (currently \$2)

We are also proposing to add a 30-cent energy surcharge to all pool entry fees.

Miscellaneous



- \$100 administration fees for overdue accounts
- Increase vehicle impound storage fee from \$15.40 to \$20 per day






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