

Statement of Proposal – fee and charges schedule 2025/26 changes

Resource consents fees and other fees and charges amendments

Introduction

New and/or amended fees and charges relating resource consents may only be set following consultation. This Statement of Proposal has therefore been prepared in accordance with requirements of section 83 of the Local Government Act (LGA) relating to the Special Consultative Procedure.

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) enables the Far North District Council (the council) to set fees and charges payable by applicants for resource consent, by holders of resource consents, and for other matters set out in section 36, 6 that relate to the council's administration of its functions under the RMA.

As part of the fee review in 2023/24, a crucial fee (Objection fee) was inadvertently removed from the resource consent area and this oversight has continued into the current financial year. To prevent further financial implications for the council, it is necessary to reinstate this fee. Additionally, several new resource consent fees have been proposed for consideration. To ensure transparency and public input, these changes are addressed through the Special Consultative Procedure.

Additionally, the majority of fees and charges (unless set by legislation etc) for 2025/26 had a 2.6% inflationary treatment applied. This increase allows for any movement in cost increases to the council.

The entire fees and charges schedule is included in the consultation, with the changes set out below.

Following the consultation period, the council will carefully review all submitted feedback before making a final decision on the reinstatement of the existing fee and the implementation of the new fees. Detailed information regarding the proposed adjustments is provided.

Council may set its schedule of all fees and charges by resolution under section 150 of the LGA, without consultation, with the exception of charges set through the RMA which must be set following the Special Consultative Procedure prescribed by the LGA.

Proposed changes to resource consent fees for 2025/26

The council proposes the following:

1. That fees have been amended overall based on inflationary increases for 2025/26 of 2.6%.
2. Reinstatement of the Objection fee: During the 2023/24 financial year, a crucial fee associated with objections to conditions was inadvertently removed, and this omission continued into the 2024/25 (current) financial year. Previously, this fee was approximately \$1,000.00 and served as an incentive for ensuring conditions were accurately set at the decision stage. The absence of this fee has led to additional staff time being spent without corresponding cost recovery. To address this, the council proposes reinstating the objection fee to mitigate these unrecouped costs and encourage accuracy in the initial decision-making process. The fixed fee for

'Objections on a council decision' has been added to cover the complexity and work undertaken to review a resource consent decision.

Application type		Proposed reinstatement
2	Objections to council on a decision or condition of consent under Section 357, 357A(fixed fee)	\$925.00

3. Additional resource consent fees: The following fees are proposed for clarification purposes:

3a - 3c. That fees for hourly processing charges have been added for a Senior Resource Consent Engineer and Planning Support - Senior / Team Leader and administration charge. This is based on actual averages of time taken to perform duties to process resource consent applications.

3d. Pre-Application Meetings & Concept Development Meetings (PAM's & CDM's): are charged on the actual cost and can involve a lot of different departments across the council. To recover cost for time spent working on these applications we have calculated an instalment fee of \$345.00.

Application type		Current fee 2024/25	Proposed fee 2025/26
3a.	Senior Resource Consent Engineer (hourly)	\$0.00	\$198.00
3b.	Senior/Team Leader - Planning Support (hourly)	\$0.00	\$100.00
3c.	Planning Support – Administration (hourly)	\$0.00	\$95.00
3d.	Pre-Application Meetings and Concept Development Meetings (instalment fee) <i>Note: Services includes one hour for work carried out by a planner and engineer (if needed). Any additional time over and above will be charged at relevant officer's hourly rate. Costs related to this service include, but are not limited to, administration, research, meeting time, writing, and distributing notes, and additional meetings.</i>	1 hour free and then charged at actual cost.	\$345.00

4. Decrease to fee - Engineering plan approvals: The fee has been decreased as we are changing the way these are processed to include (construction management plans, sediment control plans, as-built plan, site visit for LUC condition plans). All these vary in processing time and complexity and depending on what plans an engineer is viewing it can take from 30 minutes for a simple plan – up to four hours and a site visit for a complex plan.

Application type		Current fee 2024/25	Proposed fee 2025/26	(decrease)
4	Engineering plan approvals (installment)	\$777	\$385	\$398

5. Travel cost for resource consents: rewording of proposed fee for clarification as outlined below.

Application type		Current fee 2024/25	Proposed fee 2025/26
5	The travel cost is derived from the time the Council officer spends in a vehicle travelling to the site from the nearest council service centre (Kaikohe, Kaitāia and Kerikeri), charged at the Inland Revenue Department mileage rate. Actual time spent on site will be charged for at the appropriate hourly rate.	As per the IRD mileage rate schedule	Council's professional fees per hour plus any charges to the council. Note: There will be a minimum charge of one hour.

Other fees and charges 2025/26 amendments

The majority of fees and charges have been adjusted by a 2.6% inflationary increase, unless set by legislation etc.

Animals

Dog impounding: Increase fee for second and subsequent impounding fee. This fee now incorporates the third and subsequent impounding fee and has been increased to cover additional costs as well as acting as a deterrent. The third and subsequent impounding fee will be removed.

Daily handling fee: This fee has been increased to cover shelter operational costs and general price increases for subsistence etc.

Application type	Current fee 2024/25	Proposed fee 2025/26
Second and subsequent impounding	\$118.00	\$200.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$162.00	Remove line as fee included in above
Daily handling	\$16.00	\$20.00 Increased cost to cover shelter operator

Building consents

Certificate of title request: This fee has been increased beyond the 2.6% inflationary adjustment to include the \$2.00 LINZ fee increase.

Field advice notice: Remove this fee as no longer required.

Swimming pool inspections: Amend schedule to reflect actual costs as each inspection differs.

The inclusion of Building Specialist into the hourly rates.

Application type	Current fee 2024/25	Proposed fee 2025/26
Certificate of title request	\$43.00	Increase to \$46.00 to cover \$2.00 increase from LINZ

Field advice notice	\$205.00	Remove
Swimming pool inspections	\$321.00	Actual costs
Team Leader / Senior Building Officer / Senior Building Specialist / Building Specialist	\$205.00	\$210.00

Vehicle crossings

Amendment of wording to clarify actual costs of service.

Application type	Current fee 2024/25	Proposed fee 2025/26
Vehicle crossing application and vehicle crossing inspection fee (Includes first initial site visit and application fee. A further two inspections are required (pre-pour and final inspections (\$200 per inspection). Any additional inspections will be charged separately (\$200 per inspection)	\$300.00	\$308.00
Vehicle crossing inspection fee	\$200.00	\$205.00 (per inspection)

Bylaw enforcement

Return of seized noise equipment: Introduction of fee set at same charge as seized signs.

Licence to occupy application: Introduced to cover the cost of process applications.

Application type	Current fee 2024/25	Proposed fee 2025/26
Return of seized noise equipment	n/a	\$92.00
Licence to occupy application	n/a	\$123.00 per application

Certificates, License and Permits

Health license: Amendment to wording to clarify additional charges if required.

Application type	Current fee 2024/25	Proposed fee 2025/26
Health (hairdressers, mortuaries, camping grounds and septic tank cleaners)	\$357.00	\$366.00*

****Where applicable planning and building will charge for additional processing time.***

Lease and License of Road Reserves and Reserves

New fees to temporary license to occupy road reserves and reserves: Introduction of fee charging for occupying road and reserves processing and application fees. This charge covers the cost to *assessing and processing*

	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
Temporary license to occupy road reserves – non-refundable application fee	new fee	\$124.00

Temporary license to occupy road reserves processing fee	new fee	Actual cost
Temporary license to occupy reserves – non-refundable application fee	\$121.00	\$124.00
Temporary license to occupy reserves processing fee	new fee	Actual cost

Libraries

Faxing: Removal of faxing fees as no longer applicable.

	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
<i>Local</i>		
Transaction fee	\$2.60	Remove
Per page thereafter	\$1.00	Remove
<i>National</i>		
Transaction fee	\$2.60	Remove
Per page thereafter	\$1.00	Remove
<i>International</i>		
Transaction fee	\$2.60	Remove
Per page thereafter	\$1.00	Remove
<i>Incoming fax</i>		
Per page (one to four pages)	\$2.60	Remove
Per page thereafter (fifth page)	\$1.00	Remove

Electronic property file requests

A minimal increase above inflation to reflect the increase time required to process requests.

	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
Collating and providing the property file online (per property file)	\$33.50	\$35.00

Land Information Memoranda (LIMs)

LIM Application fee. Marginal increase to overall cost to reflect the significant processing time for applications. Additional charges should the application process take longer will be charged at the research fee rate (\$40.00 per half hour)

	Current 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
LIM application	\$395.00	\$405.00

Making a submission

Anyone can make a submission regarding the amendments proposed in this document, and we encourage you to let us know your views.

We have provided a submission form online and at our service centres. The form is ideal for brief submissions, but you may attach additional pages if you wish.

The submission period opens on 14 March and closes on 15 April 2025.

Submitters will have the opportunity to be heard in support of their submissions, the date for which will depend upon the number of submitters wishing to present. **Submitters wishing to speak will be contacted directly to make arrangements.**

Submissions can be:

Made online: www.fndc.govt.nz/yoursay
Emailed to: submissions@fndc.govt.nz. Subject heading should read
'Fee and charges review'
Posted to: Far North District Council
Private Bag 752
Kaikohe 0440
Attention: Fee and charges submissions team
Delivered to: Any of our service centres:

Remember that written submissions must be received by 21 March 2025

What happens next?

Council will acknowledge each submission received during the submission period. Following the closing of submissions in April 2025, all submissions will be reviewed by the council. Submitters will have an opportunity to present their submission verbally, submitters will be contacted in due course should they chose too verbally present. The council will then formally consider all submissions and if appropriate amend the fees and charges schedule if required. The schedule will then be adopted in early June, with an enactment date of 1 July 2025.