

Tauira Ngā Utu 2025/26 | Draft Fees and Charges 2025/26

Tauākī Tūtohu | Statement of Proposal



Kupu Whakataki | Introduction

While rates are Council's main source of income, Council also receives around 16% of its revenue from fees and charges.

Fees and charges are either total or partial cost recoveries for certain services. The proportion of costs that can be recovered through fees and charges for any given activity is set out in Council's Revenue and Financing Policy.

Fees and Charges cover a wide range of Council services including swimming pool entry fees, dog registration fees, facility hire, and building consents.

Arotakenga ā-Tau o ngā Utu me ngā Nohonga | Annual Review of Fees and Charges

Council reviews its Fees and Charges annually as part of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process. This regular review ensures fees and charges are up to date and reflect the actual and reasonable costs of providing services and activities to the community.

As part of the review, a period of public consultation is held to seek community feedback.

Ngā Panonitanga e Tūtohuhia ana mō ngā Utu me ngā Nohonga | Proposed changes to Fees and Charges 2025/26

Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

When reviewing Fees and Charges, Council's general approach is to increase fees by inflation. For the 2025/26 year the inflation figure, as set by BERL (Business and Economic Research Limited), is 3.2%.

In some cases, inflation is not added and fees are kept the same. This may be for a number of reasons including fee increases in the previous year, or to align with fees for other services. In addition, some fees are set by legislation and cannot be changed at Council's discretion.

For some activities there can be increases above the rate of inflation to better recover the costs of delivering the service, or due to a wider restructure of the way costs are charged to customers.

Below, a summary of the proposed changes to fees and charges under each activity is outlined. To view full details of the proposed changes please see the separate draft Fees and Charges 2025/26 document.

Whakarāpopototanga o ngā Panonitanga mā ia Mahi | Summary of changes by activity

Cemeteries

- Most fees increased by inflation
- Six percent increase in weekend and public holiday burial and ashes fees to reflect actual staff costs

General Property

- Fees increased by inflation or staying the same, except for \$3 increase in *Boardroom including kitchen* to align with other Community Venue fees

Libraries

- No change to fees

Parks and Open Spaces

- Most fees increased by inflation or staying the same
- \$5 increase in *Booking fee* for cost recovery for staff time to process bookings

Community Venues

- No change to most fees
- Fees increased by inflation for *Waharoa Aerodrome* and *Camping*
- Event Facility bookings of 3 or more consecutive days will have hourly rates capped at 10 hours per day maximum
- *Key bond* removed as customers are charged for lost card instead

Animal Control

- Most fees including dog registration increased by inflation or no change
- Increase to *impounding* fees to reflect actual costs
- One new \$75 fee for *Disposal of unclaimed / surrendered dog* to reflect actual costs

Building

- Inflation added to base fee plus small increase for insurance cost recovery
- Objective Build fee removed from base fee, to be charged separately due to changes in fee structure.
 - From 1 July 2025 - 10 November 2025 the Objective Build fee will be \$140 for most building work
 - From 11 November 2025 onwards, the Objective Build fee will be charged based on the value of the building work. For work with value less than or equal to \$124,999, the fee will be \$80. For work with value equal to or more than \$125,000, fee will be .075% of value, capped at \$2,500,000
- New note added, should any particular job significantly exceed the standard processing time an additional fee will be charged, based on the additional hours spent on the application

- New fee for *Applicant meetings*: first 30 minutes free, thereafter \$205 per hour, to reflect actual costs
- New fee for *Urgent Residential Code of Compliance Certificate*: \$500, to reflect actual costs

Licensing

- Most fees increased by inflation or no change
- New statutory fees set by Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Council collects a *MPI Levy* fee on behalf of MPI, and collects a *MPI Levy Admin* fee to recoup the cost of administering the MPI Levy
- *Administration fee* increased to align Administration fees across activities
- Increase to fee for *Return of seized stereo* from \$150 to \$200 for cost recovery for staff time required
- *Alcohol licence* fees currently set by legislation. Council will be consulting on a Draft Alcohol Licensing Fees Bylaw alongside the Fees and Charges which would give Council discretion to set these fees based on actual costs

Resource Consents

- Increases to staff hourly rates to align staff positions and fees across various activities

Roading

- Most fees increased by inflation
- One new fee for *Works Access Permit / Date extension*: \$50 for cost recovery for staff time required to process extensions
- Increases to *Corridor Access Request* and *Vehicle Crossing* fees to recover staff time
- Removal of fees for *Approved Contractors* as these are not in use

Rubbish

- *Refuse*: increase to bag rate from \$5.50 to \$6.90 for partial cost recovery, increase to per tonnage rate from \$33 to \$35.50 per tonne for cost recovery
- *Green waste*: increase to bag rate from \$5 to \$6.50 for partial cost recovery, increase to per tonnage rate from \$14 to \$17 per tonne for cost recovery
- *Car tyres* (up to 5 from consumers), *whiteware*, *car batteries* now free
- *Degassing* of appliances increase from \$13 to \$15.50 for cost recovery
- New fee for *Weigh only* for trucks \$10

Wastewater

- Change to fee structure and increases for cost recovery, based on required staff time

Water

- Fees increased by inflation

Strategies and Plans

- *Private Plan changes* - some increases to fees based on staff time to align with equivalent

positions and fees in other activities

Engineering

- Fees increased by inflation

Customer Services

- Some *printing* and other fees removed as all files are supplied digitally only
- Some *Access to files* fees increased for cost recovery for increased charges from LINZ and staff costs
- Hazard LIM changes coming into effect 1 July 2025 may require an increase to the base *Land Information Memorandum* fee and/or the removal of the *Urgent LIM* fee option
- Other fees generally increased by inflation

Communications

- New fees for *Filming permits and locations* for cost recovery

Legal

- *In house services* fee increased by inflation

Independent Commissioner

- *Secretarial and administrative support* fee reduced to align with fees across other activities
- Staff time associated with hearings increased by inflation.

Swimming Pools

- *Spa* fee reduced from \$3 to \$2
- *Concession cards (pool entry)* - some fees rounded down for ease of customer service
- Some combination fees removed to consolidate fee structure – Concession card (pool and spa entry), Membership (pool and spa entry), SZTA No.2 Bath House (private 30 min session) and pool/outdoor spa combo
- SZTA No.2 Bath House (private 30 min sessions) fee simplified to just one fee per person of \$20
- One new concession added for Active Health

Ētahi atu kōwhiringa me whakaaro ake | Other options we could consider

Keep the status quo: make no changes to the fees and charges

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
Charges stay the same	Charges do not increase to reflect the actual cost of services
	Inconsistent with our Revenue and Financing Policy
	We would need to recover costs through rates instead

Reduce or revoke fees and charges

Advantages +	Disadvantages -
The public would not have to pay directly for services or would pay less	We would need to recover costs through rates instead
	Inconsistent with our Revenue and Financing Policy

Ngā Whakaarotanga ā-Ture | Legal considerations

1) Consultation

The requirements for consultation for the different fees and charges contained in the Fees and Charges document vary depending on their enabling legislation as set out below.

a) Fees and charges enabled through the Local Government Act 2002

Under Section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) Council may prescribe fees or charges either through

- a bylaw or
- public consultation (using the principles of consultation in the LGA, Section 82)

Aside from the proposed Draft Alcohol Fees Bylaw (being consulted on separately), Council has opted not to use bylaws to set fees and charges at this time. Therefore, public consultation will be undertaken.

For consultation under the LGA Section 82, the requirements are for Council to make publicly available:

- the proposed Fees and Charges and the reasons for the proposal
- an analysis of the reasonably practicable options including the proposal

b) Fees and charges enabled through other legislation

In addition, under other legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and

Building Act 2004, Council may prescribe fees or charges relevant to certain administration purposes (such as processing resource consents) through

- public consultation (using the special consultative procedure in the LGA, Section 83)

For consultation under the LGA Section 83, the requirements are for Council to make publicly available:

- a Statement of Proposal
- a summary of the information if necessary
- a description of how the community can present their views to Council
- a statement of the period within which views on the Fees and Charges may be provided to Council.

Council must make this information as widely available as is reasonably practicable as a basis for consultation and provide an opportunity for persons to present their views to Council.

Council's approach to consultation for Fees and Charges

To ensure all legislative requirements are met as described above, consultation on the Draft Fees and Charges 2025/26 will be undertaken in accordance with the LGA, Section 83.

2) Revenue from Fees and Charges

Fees and charges prescribed under the LGA must not provide for the local authority to recover more than the reasonable costs incurred by the local authority for the matter for which the fee is charged. (LGA, Section 150 (4)).

In addition, the Revenue and Financing Policy sets out the proportion of funding that may be recovered from fees and charges for each of Council's activities, which was publically consulted on. (LGA, Section 103).

Tukua mai ō whakaaro I Have Your Say

Council invites the community to provide feedback on the proposed Fees and Charges 2025/26 to assist us in the decision-making process.

Me pēhea te tuku urupare | How to give you feedback

📄 **Online:** To fill out the online form please go to mpdc.nz/letstalk

✉️ **Mail to:** Matamata-Piako District Council, PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342

✉️ **Email:** info@mpdc.govt.nz

🗨️ **In-person:** drop your feedback form into any of our Council offices or libraries

Speaking to your feedback

You have the right to present your feedback to the Councillors at a public hearing to be held on 7 May. If you indicate in your feedback that you would like to do this, staff will be in contact to arrange this with you.

Feedback is public information

Please be aware your feedback is information. Your feedback, including your name, will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Councillors, which are publicly available, including to media.

Ngā Rā Matua | Key Dates

Process	Date
Council approve Draft Fees and Charges 2025/26 and Statement of Proposal for public consultation	5 February 2025
Public consultation	13 March – 13 April 2025
Council hearing	7 May 2025 (and 8 May if required)
Council adopt Fees and Charges 2025/26	25 June 2025
Fees and Charges 2025/26 in force	1 July 2025

Ētahi Atu Pārongo | More Information

You can call us on 07 884 0060 and let our friendly Customer Services staff know you have a question about the Fees and Charges.

Puka whakahoki kōrero | Feedback form – Fees and Charges 2025/26

Please provide your feedback by 13 April 2025

Name / Organisation: _____

For individuals please simply write your name, for organisations please write the full organisation name and your name

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: Matamata Morrinsville Te Aroha Other: _____

Age: Under 18 18–24 25–34 35–44 45–64 65–74 75+

Would you like to speak to the Mayor and Councillors about your feedback?

Feedback can be provided in person or via video on Wed 7 May 2025 (and Thursday 8 May if required) Yes No

Privacy statement: Please be aware that feedback made to Council is public information. Your feedback will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Elected Members, which are made available to the public.

Fees and Charges 2025/26

Which of these options do you support?

Proposed option: The Fees and Charges would change to those proposed

- Make the changes set out in the 2025/26 Fees schedule

Option 2: Status quo

- Make no changes to the current fees and charges, but risk breaching the Revenue and Financing Policy and a lack of cost recovery

Option 3: Reduce or remove Fees and Charges

- Reduce or remove fees and charges to make them cheaper. This may increase rates, breach the Revenue and Financing Policy, and contribute to Council debt.

Option 4: Other

Additional comments

Is there anything else you would like us to consider in regard to the Fees and Charges.

Please provide any further comments below

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for providing further comments.

Please provide your feedback by 13 April 2025