



Statement of Proposal

Draft Fees and Charges 2022/23

Consultation 14 March – 19 April 2022

Version: For consultation



This is a proposal to review our Fees and Charges 2022/23 (Fees) under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). We are proposing some amendments and asking the community for submissions to assess support/objections so any alterations can be considered before Council adopt the Fees and they come into effect on 1 July 2022.

Background

Council is consulting on the Fees using section 83 (special consultative procedure) of the LGA. This covers the requirement to consult in a way that gives effect to the principals of consultation of the LGA.

Purpose

The purpose of consultation is to assess public support/objections so any alterations can be considered before Council adopt the Fees.

What are the Fees?

Fees are either total or partial cost recoveries for certain services. The proportion of costs intended to be recovered for any given activity is set out in Council's Revenue and Financing Policy, which influences the level of Fees set for a service. The Fees cover a wide range of our activities, from infrastructure to building consents and more.

Reason we review Fees

We review our fees and charges annually as part of our Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process. This ensures fees and charges are kept up to date and reflect actual and reasonable costs and to make sure additional processes and new costs are fully covered. By reviewing the fees and charges alongside the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan it enables us to consider the impact of any changes to fees and charges to our budgets.

Rationale for increases

We aim to recover some or all of the costs we incur when providing certificates, approvals, permits or consents, or carrying out inspections, where there is significant private benefit. If these costs are not charged to the user, the only other practicable option available is for us to recover the costs through general rates revenue, which is a charge on all ratepayers. We consider that seeking a reasonable fee or charge from the person who requires a specific service is the most appropriate option. We also need to pass on increases in our costs, and we generally rely on inflation data from Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL) when looking at increases of this nature.

Our overall policy for funding our activities is set out in our Revenue and Financing Policy in the Long Term Plan 2021-31, this includes the rationale for why activities are funded in certain ways. Overall we aim to fund our activities as follows:

Activity	Funding
Carparks and Street Furniture	General rates 100%
Cemeteries	General rates 30-60% Fees and charges 40-70%
Housing	User charges 100%
Rural Halls	Targeted hall rates on varying bases for each of the rating areas 80%. Fees and charges on varying bases for each of the rating areas.
Corporate/General Property	General rates 80-90% Fees and charges 10-20%
Libraries	General rate 90-99% Fees and charges 1-10%
Parks and Tracks	General rates 90-100% Fees and charges 0-10%
Pools and Spas	General rates 50-70%

	Fees and charges 30-50%
Public Toilets	General rates 100%
Recreation Facilities and Heritage	General rates 85-90% Fees and charges 10-15%
Animal Control	General rates 20% Fees and charges (including fines) 80%
Building Consents and Monitoring	General rates 40-60% Fees and charges 40-60%
Health	Licence processing – 100% user pays Enquiries/complaints/enforcement – 100% funded by rates
Alcohol	Licence processing – fees set by legislation Enquiries/complaints/enforcements – 100% funded by rates
Noise Control	100% funded by rates
Resource Consents and Monitoring	Planning resource consents processing and monitoring – 100% user pays Enquires/complaints/enforcement – 100% funded by rates
Roading	Subsidy – as determined by Government agency Council has resolved to allocate interest earned from the Power New Zealand fund to the Roothing activity to reduce the rate requirement. Council will determine the budgeted interest allocation on an annual basis. General rates – balance of funding
Waste Management Facilities	2021/22-2022/23 General rate 35%-55% Fees and Charges 45%-65% - transfer station fees. 2023/24-2023/31 (new contract in 2023/24) General rate 55%-75% Fees and Charges 25%-45% - transfer station fees.
Kerbside Collection Services	2021/22-2022/23 Targeted rate 50%-70% on a uniform basis for serviced properties Fees and Charges 30%-50% - rubbish bag sales 2023/24-2023/31 (new contract in 2023/24) Targeted rate 90-100% on a uniform basis for serviced properties Fees and charges 0%-10%
Stormwater	General rates 10-16% Targeted rate on a uniform basis for serviced urban areas 84-90%
Wastewater	Fees and charges through trade waste agreements. The balance of funding after fees and charges will comes from either: General rate 0-6%, or Targeted rate on a per pan basis (using a scale of charges) for serviced urban areas 94-100%. Factors – properties connected Properties able to connect but not connected Council will determine the actual percentages within the allowable range on an annual basis.
Water	Targeted rates from metered water (including residential and from industry). The balance of funding after metered water will come from either: General rates 0-6%, or Targeted rate on a uniform basis for serviced urban areas 94-100% Factors – properties connected Properties able to be connected but not connected Council will determine the actual percentages within the allowable range on an annual basis.
Civil Defence Emergency Management	General rates 100% Exacerbator charges where possible
Communications and Events	General rates 100%
Community Leadership	General rates 100%
Strategies and Plans	General rates 100%

What are the key changes to Fees?

The majority of the Fees are proposed to remain the same or increase by inflation which is information supplied by Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL) and then rounded.

There are some Fees proposed to change, these key changes are outlined below:

- Libraries
 - Change of description– Rental books (bestseller) - This category currently applies to Adult/Fiction less than one year old, propose to change this to applying to 'best sellers' which can apply to both fiction and non-fiction and to books readily able to be read in the 2 week timeframe. The actual fee is not proposed to change.
 - New fee proposed for Popup meeting room at the Morrinsville Library which now has potential for screened off areas to be used by the public for meetings and training. Library staff need to set this up according to needs on the day.
 - Photocopying and Printing fees – it is proposed to increase these to be in line with other libraries while still below retail prices.
- Parks
 - Domain Pavilion - Te Aroha Domain, provide for an hourly rate, daily charge for community groups and commercial use. Changed to be consistent with small lounges at other MPDC facilities.
- Recreation Facilities and Heritage
 - Spectator fee – it is proposed to remove this fee as it has never been used
 - Firth Tower – introducing a new fee for Annual Family Pass (per family per year, based on 2 adults and up to 3 children) of \$100.00, Room Hire fees and Events fees revised to be in line with the Events Centres, Campervan fees reduced to be consistent with services provided in other camping facilities in the Waikato area.
- Building Consents and Monitoring
 - We are proposing to increase all building consent fees to reflect the actual processing costs.
- Licensing and Enforcement – proposed new fee to cover the Actual costs of call outs to Alarm deactivation/disarming
- Resource Consents and Monitoring
 - Proposed new fee for Vehicle crossing only with a Deposit of \$1,000.00
 - Proposed increased to Permitted boundary activities to reflect actual costs of processing applications.
 - Proposed new fee – Surrender of consent as required by a condition of consent
 - Proposed new fee – Outline plan waiver
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- Roading
 - Proposed new fee – Generic Traffic Management Plan to cover multiple sites for up to 12 months
 - Proposed new fees for Approved Contractors and Non-approved contractors
- Rubbish and Recycling
 - Transfer Station fee – Proposed increase to per tonne fee to provide for \$10 waste levy increase and emission trading scheme increase
- Customer Services

- Proposed increase to Access to file fees. We have delayed increases for several years, and the proposed fee reflects inflation over that time.
- Swimming Pools
 - Proposed increase to Commercial Lane hire fee
 - Proposed new fee for Summer Swim Card for school aged children

Other minor changes include increases to deposits (not the actual costs) and changes to position titles. Changes are identified in red and deletions struck through and reasons for proposed changes are also set out in the full document.

Analysis of reasonably practicable options

In preparing these fees and charges we have considered three options for reviewing the fees and charges and we would like your thoughts on what we should do.

Option 1 – Adopt the Fees as proposed

The Fees would change to those proposed in the Draft Fees & Charges 2022/23.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Reflects our actual cost of service and is consistent with our Revenue and Finance Policy.	Increased fees and charges will mean increased costs to those in the community that use the affected services.
Allows us to recover costs for new services and facilities.	

Option 2 – Status quo

The Fees would remain the same as present (2021/22).

Advantages	Disadvantages
The public are familiar with current fees and charges.	These will not reflect our actual costs of services.
Charges to the community remain the same.	Services with a private benefit (such as building consent processing) may have to be subsidised by rates, which may in turn be inconsistent with our Revenue and Finance Policy.
Costs of new services are provided at no cost to the public.	Does not allow us to recover costs for new services and facilities.

Option 3 – Revoke/lower

Council would revoke or lower the Fees.

Advantages	Disadvantages
The public does not have to pay directly for goods or services or will pay a lower amount.	We will need to recover our costs through rates.
	This would be inconsistent with our Revenue and Finance Policy.

Statutory requirements

Section 150 of the LGA provides for fees or charges to be imposed by us using the principals of consultation. Fees and charges must be prescribed in one of our Bylaws or by using a public consultation process. We are currently undertaking this consultation process and invite your feedback on the proposed fees and charges. The LGA requires that in general fees and charges must not provide an opportunity for us to recover more than the reasonable costs we incur in providing the goods or service to the community.

Other legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) gives us the authorisation to charge fees and charges for services provided under that Act, such as processing resource consent applications. Similarly, the Building Act 2004 entitles us to recover the reasonable costs we incur when providing certificates, authorities, approvals, permits or consents, or carrying out inspections.

Setting of the fees and charges must be done in accordance with the principals of consultation or using the Special Consultative Procedure set out in the LGA.

Proposed Fees – from draft to adoption

The views of the community are vital to our success. Therefore, we would like to invite the community to provide submissions on the proposed amendments to the Fees to assist us in the decision making process.

The submission process

Process	Date
Council approve statement of proposal and Fees and Charges for public consultation	8 December 2021
Consult the community	14 March – 19 April
Council hearing (volume of submitters will determine if the meeting is required to run for both days)	11/12 May 2022
Adopt Fees	30 June 2022
New Fees apply	1 July 2022

Where can I find more information?

You can download the 2022/23 Draft Fees and Charges, or any of our other documents we are consulting on at www.mpd.govt.nz and you can view these documents at our offices or libraries.

How can I have my say?

We actively encourage the community to contribute to the formation of these important documents and it is easy to have your say. Simply make a submission on any/all draft documents and return it to us by 19 April 2022.

You can make a submission:

Online - through our website at www.mpd.govt.nz

Email - submissions@mpd.govt.nz

Written- you can simply write your submission as a letter and either drop it off at one of our office or post it to:

Submissions
PO Box 266
Te Aroha 3342

Note: Please be aware that submissions made to Council are public information. Your submission will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Councillors, which are made available to the public and media.

If you advise in your submission that you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing on 11/12 May 2022, Council staff will contact you (please ensure to provide a day time contact) to arrange a time for you to speak at the hearing (volume of submitters determines if the meeting will run on 12 May also). If you advise in your submission that assistance is required Council is able to offer assistance with special requirements such as New Zealand sign language and audio visual mechanisms.

Office and library locations

- Te Aroha Council Office: Kenrick Street Te Aroha
- Te Aroha Library: Rewi Street, Te Aroha
- Morrinsville Area Office or Library: Canada Street, Morrinsville
- Matamata Area Office or Library: Tainui Street, Matamata

Any questions?

We are here to help - so if you have any questions about the Fees or the submission process please let us know. Just call us on 07 884 0060 and let our friendly Customer Services staff know you have a question about the Fees and Charges 2022/23.

You must have your submission back to Council by 19 April 2022