

DRAFT STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

Background

Environment Canterbury's Fees and Charges Policy describes the fees and charges we have set under legislation (including the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Act). A number of our charges are not currently at a level that recovers actual or reasonable costs. A number of changes are therefore proposed.

New charges

Two new charges are proposed:

- **Non-compliant incidents response.** Introducing this charge means that, should we be called out to an incident and we find that there is non-compliant activity taking place, we can recover the costs of that call-out from the individual responsible. A minimum fee will apply.
- **Annual water-use data management.** Introducing this fee (of up to \$200 exc GST per consent per year) means we can recover costs of managing the water data sent to us as part of a consent holder's compliance. This charge would cover costs associated with compliance monitoring of water-use data including: costs to develop guidelines for quality data; checking and chasing missing data; licence fees for data software; verification of meters; compliance checking against consent limits; reporting compliance results; and recording and maintaining all data.

In making this proposal we considered the following options:

1. Status quo – not introducing the charges and continuing to use general rates to pay for the services ie all ratepayers contribute to the provision of the services.
2. Introducing charges for these two services to recover actual and reasonable costs from individuals, as the costs are incurred. This is our preferred option.

Changes to existing fees and charges

A number of changes to existing schedules of fees have been made to reflect today's costs and activity. These are available to view in a marked-up version of the draft new Fees and Charges Policy. In summary they are:

Costs of staff time/vehicles/disbursements

- Addition of science staff in the schedule for charging out staff time.
- Addition of incident response officer time in the schedule for charging out staff time.
- Increase from \$0.73 to \$0.76/km for all vehicle charge-outs as per IRD guidelines.
- Increase in charges for printed copies of specific plans and statements.

Compliance monitoring

- Addition of monitoring charges for activities within the National Environmental Standard – Plantation Forestry (NEW-PF), which came into effect in May 2018.

Harbourmaster, navigation safety and maritime

- Increases in port charges payable by Kaikōura District Council, Lyttelton Port of Christchurch, Christchurch City Council (Akaroa) and Prime Port Timaru.
- Increase in the annual swing mooring fee for administration, supervision and monitoring to recover actual cost of service.
- Increases in Akaroa and Kaikōura ship charges.
- Increases in the cost to review or approve operators' Marine Oil Spill Response Plans and other certification.

Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) and primary industry certification

- Clarification of wording around ISO programme registration fees.
- Clarification around 'per hour' fees vs annual fees for FEP Audit Certification and ISO programmes.

Dam safety

- Clarification of wording regarding central government intentions for dam safety regulations.

Air quality

- Removal of specific charge to process an application for authorisation in a clean air zone for the use of any class of fuel.
- Clarification of wording regarding installation of fuel-burning equipment.

Miscellaneous

- Clarification of wording regarding permitted activity.

When making this proposal we considered the option of not increasing the fees and charges at this time. This would mean that general rates would need to make up the difference between the fees and the actual costs of providing the services. Our preferred option is to apply the changes noted above.

Having your say

The proposed changes are available for community and stakeholder feedback via the submission process from 18 February – 19 March 2019 (5:00pm). Submissions can be made via [URL](#). Submitters will be able to speak to Council at the hearings scheduled for 30 April by indicating this on the submission form.