



Statement of Proposal

2025/26 User Fees and Charges

Introduction

The Council's fees and charges are set under various legislation, including the:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Dog Control Act 1996
- Building Act 2004
- Reserves Act 1977
- Waste Minimisation Act 2008
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Food Act 2014
- Food Hygiene Regulations 2015
- Impounding Act 1955
- Health Act 1956
- Sale of Alcohol Act 2012.

Council's user fees and charges are updated each year. Updates reflect changing circumstances, Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments, new or removed fee requirements, or benchmarking with other Councils. The proposed fees and charges reflect the outcome of this review process.

This proposal summarises the key changes to user fees and charges proposed for the year beginning 1 July 2025.

Under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2002, reasonable costs incurred may be charged based on the hourly rate of staff involved.

All fees are GST inclusive unless otherwise stated.

How can I make a submission?

The proposed 2025/26 User Fees and Charges will be open for public submissions from **28 March 2025** until **5:00pm 28 April 2025**.

A full schedule of Council's proposed user fees and charges not included in this proposal is available from <https://letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz/annualplan>.

Alternatively, full copies of the proposed fees and charges document and submission forms are available from He Puna Manawa (21 Devonport Road) or in any library.

If you also wish to present your submission in person, Council will hear verbal submissions at a number of hearings from 12 May 2025. You can indicate if you wish to speak to your submission on the submission form, and you will be contacted to arrange a time to speak.

Inflation and rounding

In general, the fees and charges have been reviewed and adjusted in line with inflation of 3%. Where appropriate fees have been rounded to the nearest 50 cents.

Changes to our user fees and charges

Animal Services

Kennel Licences

Residents can only keep more than two dogs at a property if they have a kennel licence or live in a rural zoned area. A kennel licence is issued for a specific address and states the maximum number of dogs that can be kept at the property by an occupant and may include other conditions. We are proposing to introduce a new fee for a kennel licence and variation to kennel licence. The new fees reflect staff time to carry out inspections and the administrative costs of issuing licences. As part of the licence application, an animal service officer visits the property to check that it is appropriate for the number and type of dogs the applicant wishes to keep. They also check the dogs are registered, owner history such as previous complaints, the condition of the kennels, and that a business is not being operated. A kennel licence is valid for five years, however if there is a change of dogs or change of address a variation and reinspection is required.

Animal Services	New fees
Kennel Licences	2025/26
New application or renewal of kennel licence (keeping of more than two dogs)	\$100.00
Variation to licence (e.g. adding or removing a dog, change of address)	\$50.00

Beachside Holiday Park

We are proposing to add a new half (\$150) and full day (\$300) fee for hire of the conference room.

Building Services

Increases for building services include 3% inflation plus 5% increase in fees to cover costs of delivering the activity.

Detailed financial forecasting was carried out during the 2024-34 Long-term Plan (LTP) process on building services costs. A decision was made to increase fees 5% each year for the first five years of the LTP, rather than put the fees up significantly in year 1 of the LTP. This will be reviewed each year to determine if increases are needed and only applied if the cost predictions are still accurate.

Cemeteries

Animal cremations

We had intended to carry out animal cremations, however this service has not eventuated therefore the fees for this have been removed. We propose to remove the discount for prompt payment for funeral directors, as this is no longer affordable to provide.

Rose garden plot and maintenance

The fee for plot and maintenance of the rose garden is proposed to increase from \$1201 to \$1500, due to the contractor costs of installation and maintenance.

Burials

We are proposing to introduce two new fees for device hire (\$50) and self-backfill option (\$293). These fees are to reflect the costs to council for device hire and additional time to clean up the burial site.

Public holiday surcharges

We are proposing to increase the public holiday surcharge from \$606 to \$1000. This is due to the staff required as well as the paid overtime required on public holidays.

Administration fees

We propose to increase the fee for funerals without a funeral director from \$182 to \$500 as the process requires more staff involvement and therefore more cost to council. We are proposing to introduce a new \$250 fee for administration of seat donations, to cover staff time.

Development Works

Category 1 and 2 Geo-professional accreditations

We introduced the Category 1 and 2 Geo-professional accreditation system about 30 years ago for geo-professionals possessing the appropriate qualifications, skills and relevant experience in Tauranga City. This system was introduced to ensure that the risks associated with complex geotechnical hazards are appropriately managed when undertaking building or land development. The 2024/25 fee for accreditation is \$1,224.30 and \$735.64 for a renewal.

Every year we get between 6 and 15 new applications and 4 to 10 renewal applications. Accreditation typically applies for five years, at which point a renewal is required. The applications are reviewed by an external panel, with the external costs to Council for the initial accreditation being more than \$5,500 per applicant and \$3,300 per renewal. Geo-professionals also have to maintain their Engineering New Zealand Membership, which is \$620 annually.

We are proposing to increase the fees to \$3,000 and \$1,800 respectively, as well as finding additional savings in the application process to reduce further reliance on rates.

Hourly rates

We propose to add hourly rates for development works to the fee schedule. These hourly rates are currently charged where applicable (in line with other hourly rates listed). For 25/26 these are being listed in the schedule for transparency.

Food Premises

Verifications

Previously we have charged a flat fee of \$536 for Food Control Plans and National Programme verifications (3 hours), however this does not cover the actual time spent. We are proposing to change the charging structure to an actual hourly charge of \$184 (time to be charged in 15 minute intervals).

Domestic Food Business Levy (Ministry for Primary Industries levy)

We're required to collect a new fee of \$63.25 for Food Control Plans and National Programmes on behalf of Ministry for Primary Industries.

Land Information

LIM preparation

A new fee for preparation of LIMs that go beyond six hours of preparation is proposed. This is to cover the reasonable cost of providing this service.

LIM and Property file combo

We're proposing to introduce a combined fee for property files and LIMs requested together. The proposed new fee for a 10 day LIM and property file is \$450, while the new fee for a 5 day LIM and property file is proposed at \$730.

Libraries

Research

The research fee is proposed to increase from \$65 per hour to \$75 per hour to meet the reasonable cost of the service.

Community rate room hire

The per hour rate has been increased from \$24 per hour to \$26.40 per hour to align with Bay Venues rates.

Parking

The paid parking areas in Dive Crescent and Cliff Road maximum daily charges are proposed to increase due to these carparks being heavily used. The lost ticket charge has been removed as we no longer issue tickets.

The open permit fees for Spring Street and Elizabeth Street parking buildings have been reduced from \$295 and \$280 respectively to \$276 to reflect market conditions.

Devonport and Dive Crescent lease rates have been removed as they are no longer to be leased. The Seaview off street lease has been added at a rate of \$240.

McLaren Falls

We are proposing to increase the hostel fee during peak times and introduce off peak and shoulder season charges for both the hostel and camping to encourage winter usage and more camping during the historically quieter months.

Other changes to fees

As built information in paper form

We no longer receive paper as-builts, so the fee is no longer required.

Library interloan requests

This fee has been reduced from \$10 to \$9. The library system blocks users from loans if their balance goes over \$10, so it is more practical to charge below the \$10 fee.

Street naming, numbering notifications

These fees have been removed as the street naming and numbering notification service is no longer available.

Duplication of photocopying and printing

Photocopying and printing charges are included under libraries/customer service centres.