

Tauira Ngā Utu 2026/27 | Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27

Tauākī Tūtohu | Statement of Proposal



Summary – What we’re proposing and why

Key changes

Council reviews its Fees and Charges annually as part of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process to ensure they are up to date, reflect actual costs, and get the balance right between users of the service and all ratepayers.

Some of the key changes we are proposing are:

- Increases to some of our Cemetery fees – to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general, and to align with other Waikato councils.
- Changes to our Land Information Memorandum (LIM) fees – to respond to increased complexity in the information requirements under the amended legislation.
- Building consent fee changes – to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
- Some changes to our Community Facility charges – to provide consistency across venues, and between commercial and non-commercial rates.
- Introduction of Waikato Waters Ltd on-charged fees – to provide for the transition of water and wastewater services to Waikato Waters Ltd on 1 October 2026.

Have your say

Do you agree with our proposed Fees and Charges? Do you prefer a different approach? We want to hear from you.

In this document we provide some more background and a summary of the proposed changes. And in the accompanying Fees and Charges schedule we outline all the proposed changes in detail. You can provide your feedback in a number of ways, see pages 10-12 of this document for how to have your say.

Kupu Whakataki | Introduction

The proposed changes to Fees and Charges for 2026/27 support Council's wider financial strategy, which aims to keep rates increases as low and stable as possible while ensuring we can continue to provide essential services to the community. One of the principles in the Financial Strategy is maintaining a fair balance between what is funded from rates and what is funded directly by users of services.

By increasing some fees and charges slightly more than inflation - particularly in activities where the current level of cost recovery is at the lower end of what is allowed by the Revenue and Financing Policy - Council can reduce the pressure on general rates. This means that more of the cost is paid by the people who use the services, rather than being spread across all ratepayers. This approach helps Council manage rising costs, maintain service levels, and stay within its financial limits (such as debt and rates caps) without placing undue burden on households and businesses.

In short, the proposed fee changes are one of the tools Council uses to ensure our financial position remains sustainable, fair, and aligned with the direction set in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. They allow us to continue delivering services while limiting the level of rates increases required for the year.

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

Fees and charges are either total or partial cost recoveries for Council 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 [link](#).

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

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 2026/27

Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

Inflation

When reviewing fees and charges, Council's general approach is to increase fees by inflation, and round to the nearest \$1 or \$5. For the 2026/27 year the inflation figure, as determined by Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL) is 2.7%.

Getting the balance right – fees and charges versus rates

This year, as part of developing the Annual Plan budget and seeking to keep rates as low as possible, Council has chosen to slightly increase the proportion of revenue collected from fees and charges for some activities, and therefore slightly lower the proportion collected from general rates. The activities where this approach has been taken are those where fees and charges have been sitting at the lower end of the band set for that activity in the Revenue and Financing Policy. This has resulted in increases above the rate of inflation for these activities.

Other considerations

For some other activities there have been fee increases above the rate of inflation for other reasons, such as to more fully recover the costs of delivering a service or respond to changes in legislation.

In some other cases, inflation has not been added and fees have been kept the same. This may be for a number of reasons including fees having increased in the previous year, or to ensure there are no barriers to accessing the service. In addition, some fees are set by legislation and cannot be changed at Council's discretion.

Changes to water and wastewater related fees

Background

Following the government's introduction of the Local Waters Done Well programme, and a period of public consultation, Council made the decision to join a new council controlled water services entity – Waikato Waters Ltd. Consequently, on 1 October 2026, Council's water and wastewater services will transfer to Waikato Waters Ltd.

What this means for fees and charges

From 1 October, for the rest of the 2026/27 year, Council will continue to collect water and wastewater fees and charges as usual, and will transfer these funds to Waikato Waters Ltd.

For some other activities, Council may need to on-charge fees received from Waikato Waters Ltd. The activities where these fees may be incurred, include a note or fee line in this regard.

Find out more

A summary of the proposed changes to fees and charges under each activity is outlined below. The summary includes fees proposed to increase above the rate of inflation, new fees, fees being removed, fees that have a change in fee structure, and fees that are reducing. Fees that have no proposed changes or have increased by inflation only are not included in the summary.

To view full details of all the proposed changes please see the separate draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 document.

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

Below is a summary of Council's proposed changes to fees and charges for the 2026/27 year.

Animal Control

- \$10 dollar increase in the *Dog ownership full registration fee* to reflect increases in costs and stay within our Revenue and Financing Policy.
- New \$40 *Adoption fee* for dogs under 1 year adopted straight from the pound, to remove barrier to adoption of these dogs.
- Some *Dog impounding* and *Stock call out* fees have been increased by 6% to reflect increases in costs and stay within our Revenue and Financing Policy.
- A new fee for *Animal control microchipping* of \$50 has been added to provide a service.

Building Consents and Monitoring

- Most fees increased by 6% to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
- The staff time required to undertake various work within this activity has been reviewed and where applicable an additional amount has been added to fees to more accurately reflect the costs of providing these services. This has resulted in an additional increase to the following categories of fees: *Standard Residential Building Works, Structures, Outbuilding Habitable, Dairy Sheds, Residential Alterations, Dwellings, Multiproof Consents, New Commercial/ Industrial Buildings, Commercial Alterations and Additions*.
- Some new charges from Objective Build have been added.
- Note added that all Objective Build fees are exclusive of GST.
- New fees for *Additional Administration Costs* fee, \$120 and *Additional Building Control Officer (BCO) Costs*, \$218 to cover any additional work required by the building unit.
- New *Waikato Waters Ltd charge, At Cost* to recover any costs incurred from attendance at meetings.
- New *Project Information Memorandum (PIM) Applications for Small Stand-alone Dwelling – also known as Granny Flat* fee, \$965.00 to respond to new legislation.
- Note added that any costs incurred by Waikato Waters Ltd will be in addition to the fees listed and may be charged with the Building Consent
- Please see the fees and charges schedule for full details of all the changes mentioned above.

Cemeteries

- Most cemetery fees have been increased by 6%, and some by a larger amount, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general, and to align with fees from other Waikato councils. Please see the fees and charges schedule for full details.
- *Matamata Cemetery – Single RSA ashes wall* has been removed as the wall is full.

Communications

- No changes.

Community Venues

- Some fees have been increased by more than inflation to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general. Please see the fees and charges schedule for full details.
- The fee structure has been reviewed, fees better aligned across venues, and the commercial rate set at twice the non-commercial rate. In some cases this has resulted in a decrease in fees. Please see the fees and charges schedule for full details.

Customer Services

- The fee for *Official Information charges – pages copied* has been reduced from 50cents to 20cents to align with the Ombudsman Charging Guidelines.
- Council is proposing to make changes to the *Land Information Memorandum (LIM)* fees because the new national LIM regulations have increased the amount of information that must be included in a LIM, as well as the level of checking and validation required. As a result, *Land Information Memorandum (LIM)* fees have increased by more than inflation, the time for an *Urgent LIM Residential/ Rural* has increased from 3 to 5 days, and the *Urgent Business/ Industrial LIM* has been removed. These changes will ensure that all LIMs are processed to the same standard and within realistic timeframes. These changes also help maintain consistent service levels across the district and avoid the substantial cost increases that would otherwise be required to retain a separate Urgent Business / Industrial LIM service.
- A new *Additional processing fee* has been added to recover any costs associated with the transition of Water and Wastewater to Waikato Waters Ltd.

Engineering

- Most fees have been increased by 6% to provide consistency in staff charge-out rates across activities.

General Property

- Morrinsville has been added to the list of available Interview rooms.

Independent Commissioner

- *Secretarial and administrative support fee* has increased from \$100 to \$120 to provide consistency of administration fees across Council's activities.

Legal

- *Administration per hour* increased from \$100 to \$120 to provide consistency of administration fees across Council's activities.

Libraries

- No changes.

Licensing and Enforcement

- Most fees have been increased by 6% to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.

Parks and Open Spaces

- *Additional toilet clean*, \$100 fee added to recover costs associated with staff time to provide this service.
- *Hire fee for Commercial activities* increased from \$722 to \$800 to cover the cost of administration.
- *Domain Pavilion* fees moved to Community Venues.
- *Domain House* fees removed as it is currently used by Domain Beauty.

Resource Consents and Monitoring

- *Regulatory Planning Charges* increased by 6%, and *Set up fee* and *Administration* increased from \$100 to \$120, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
- *Second hand building land use consent* and *Front yard encroachment land use consent* increased from \$1000 to \$1310 to better reflect the cost of the staff time required to deliver the service.
- The three *Land Transfer Plan Approval* fees merged into one \$515 deposit charge.
- *Surrender of consent* deposit decreased from \$1000 to \$515 to make it more accessible.
- *Surrender of consent as required by a condition of consent* changed from deposit to set fee and amount reduced from \$500 to \$250, as this is now typically incorporated into the processing of the initial consent.
- Note added that any costs incurred by Waikato Waters Ltd will be in addition to the fees listed and may be charged with the Building Consent

Roading

- *Works Access Permit (WAP)/ Date Extension* increased from \$50 to \$90 and *Generic Traffic Management Plan (TMP)* increased from \$600 to \$680, to better reflect the cost associated with the staff time required to undertake this work.
- Three new *Corridor Access Request (CAR)* fees added to recover the cost associated with the staff time required to undertake this work: *Late completion of works or failure to return sites to pre-existing conditions as per Council requirements and Utilities Code* \$200, *Additional management and administration fees including meetings, site visits and administration work* \$200, *Issuing Stop Works Order* \$250.
- Application for a new/upgraded vehicle crossing not part of a subdivision or building consent increased from \$318 to \$416 to align with two hours of Consent Engineer time.
- *Skateboard infringement* fees removed as they are not in use.

Rubbish and Recycling

- A change in the fee structure for smaller amounts of Refuse and Green Waste: *Refuse Minimum charge* 0-20kg, \$7.50; *Green waste Minimum charge* 0-40kg, \$7.00.
- *Automotive Waste Oil*, up to 20 litres, free, to provide a service.
- *New Illegal dumping - recovery and disposal fee*, At Cost, to recover costs.

Strategies and Plans

- *Private plan changes* deposit increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 as current deposit is not sufficient to cover initial costs.
- *Administration fee* increased from \$100 to \$120 to provide consistency of administration fees across Council's activities.

Swimming Pools

- New *Swimzone Morrinsville 4 month* membership added on a trial basis to respond to customer requests. Fees set as follows: *Child* \$140, *Adult* \$255, *Senior* \$220.

Wastewater

- *Annual fees – Conditional* removed as this has been replaced by other fees.
- New note added: From 1 October 2026, Council will collect these fees on behalf of Waikato Waters Ltd.

Water

- *Re-connection fee* changed from \$3.00 to At Cost to correct error in previous schedule.
- Backflow maintenance and annual testing removed as it is covered by another fee.
- New note added: From 1 October 2026, Council will collect these fees on behalf of Waikato Waters Ltd.

Te mānuka e kawea ake ana | What we're proposing

The fees summary above outlines Council's preferred option for updating the Fees and Charges for 2026/27.

Option 1: Make the changes set out in the 2026/27 Fees and Charges schedule.

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|--|---|
| Allows Council to recover the costs of providing services. | Will mean some users of services will pay more for these services in the coming year. |
| Allows fees and charges to remain consistent with Council's Revenue and Financing Policy | |
| Avoids additional increases to rates to cover costs | |

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

Aside from the fee changes proposed above, there are other options we could consider:

Option 2: Make no changes to the fees and charges

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|------------------------|---|
| Charges stay the same. | Charges do not reflect the actual cost of services. |
| | Inconsistent with Revenue and Financing Policy. |
| | Costs would need to be recovered through rates instead, leading to a larger rates increase. |

Option 3: Reduce or revoke fees and charges

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|---|
| The public would not have to pay directly for services or would pay less. | Charges do not reflect the actual cost of services. |
| | Inconsistent with Revenue and Financing Policy. |
| | Costs would need to be recovered through rates instead, leading to a larger rates increase. |

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.

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)

Council has one Bylaw that sets fees, namely the Alcohol Licensing Fees Bylaw. Aside from this, 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

Fees and charges enabled through other legislation

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 2026/27 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 publicly consulted on. (LGA, Section 103).

Tukua mai ō whakaaro | Have Your Say

Council invites the community to provide feedback on the proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27 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 the Council offices or libraries

Speaking to your feedback

You have the right to present your feedback to the Elected Members in person at a Council meeting to be held on 13 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 public information. Your feedback, including your name, will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Council which are publicly available, including to media.

Ngā Rā Matua | Key Dates

| Process | Date |
|--|--|
| Council approval of Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 and Statement of Proposal for public consultation | 4 March 2026 |
| Public consultation | 16 March – 19 April 2026 |
| Council meeting to hear submissions in person | 13 May 2026 (and 12 May if required) |
| Council adoption of Fees and Charges 2026/27 | 13 May 2026 (animal control fees) 24 June 2026 (all other fees) |
| Fees and Charges 2026/27 in force | 1 July 2026 |

Ētahi Atu Pārongo | More Information

You can call Council 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 2026/27

Please provide your feedback by 19 April 2026

Name / Organisation: _____

For individuals please simply write your name, for submissions on behalf of an organisations please include both your own name and the full organisation name.

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: Matamata Morrinsville Te Aroha Other: _____

Age: Under 18 18–24 25–34 35–44 45–64 65–75 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 13 May 2026 (and Tuesday 12 May if required)

Yes No

Fees and Charges 2026/27

Options

Which of these options do you support? (please tick, and provide any further comment below)

Proposed option: Fees and Charges would change to those proposed. Make the changes set out in the 2026/27 Fees and Charges schedule.

Option 2: Fees and Charges would remain at the current level. Make no changes to the current fees and charges, and recover the shortfall through rates instead.

Option 3: Reduce or remove Fees and Charges. Remove or reduce fees and charges to make them cheaper, and recover the shortfall through rates instead.

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

Privacy statement: Please be aware that feedback made to Council is public information. Feedback will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Elected Members, which are made available to the public. Submitters will be able to access a summary of submissions and deliberations to understand how feedback has been considered and how decisions were reached.

Note that individual submissions will be made publicly available in full (including your name and any organisation you represent), unless you request confidentiality and this may be able to be accommodated under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please provide your feedback by 19 April 2026