

# Officer Analysis of Submissions

## Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27

Council reviews its Schedule of Fees and charges every year. The changes that Council proposed include:

- Increase most fees and charges by 2.6% (and rounded to the nearest dollar). This represents the expected increase in inflation over the next 12 months and ensures fees and charges are aligned with expected increases to what it costs to deliver the services we provide.
- Fees set by legislation (for example liquor licensing fees) have not changed, unless they were changed by central government.
- Changes to the fee structure for building consents to reflect the move to 'Objective Build'.
- Charges for refundable deposits are not proposed to increase.
- Non-notified resource management consent deposits are proposed to increase by 5%.
- Metered water charges are proposed to be removed as these are set by rates resolution.
- Streamlining the method for hall charges across all halls in the district.
- Minor additions – such as cleaning fees, the recycling trailer, and other service provision.

## Summary of Submissions and Officer Responses

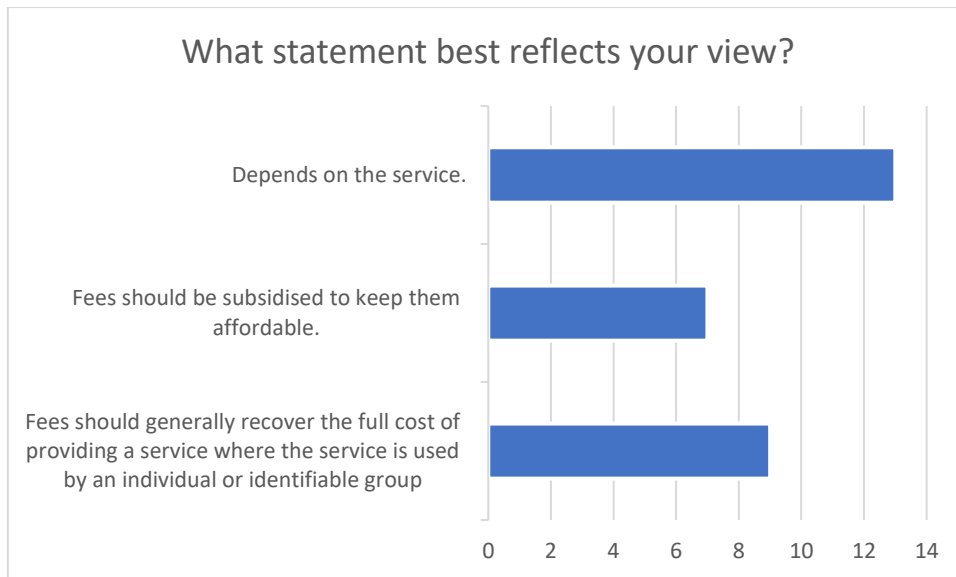
Council asked the following questions:

1. Which statement best reflects your view?
  - Fees should generally recover the full cost of providing a service where the service is used by an individual or identifiable group.
  - Fees should be subsidised to keep them affordable.
  - Depends on the service.
2. Are there any specific fees or charges you think are unfair or unreasonable?

Comments are analysed by question below.

### Which statement best reflects your view?

Of the 48 submitters that commented on Where's the Annual Plan 2026/27 & Co @ Rangitikei, 29 submitters provided a response to this question.



The most common response (45% of responses) was that fees and charges should depend on the service. This was followed by a perspective that fees should recover the full cost where there is an identifiable group (31%), then that fees should be subsidised to keep them affordable (24%).

## Are there any specific fees or charges you think are unfair or unreasonable?

Of the 48 submitters that commented on Where's the Annual Plan 2026/27 & Co @ Rangitikei, 12 submitters provided a response to this question. These responses have been grouped by theme, with submissions and officer comments outlined below.

<b>Topic 1</b>	<i>Water</i>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<i>Regulatory</i>
<b>Topic 3</b>	<i>Parks and Facilities</i>
<b>Topic 4</b>	<i>Rates</i>
<b>Topic 5</b>	<i>Support for fees and charges</i>

## Topic 1: Water

### *Submissions*

Kelsey Barnaby (003) and Marc Cunningham (028)

### *Summary of submissions*

Submitter 003 and submitter 028 identify water charges as unfair as they consider the water undrinkable.

### *Officer Comment*

*Council is making significant investment in water supply throughout the district. For Marton this includes the implementation of the Marton Water Strategy. At its meeting on Thursday, 9 April 2026, Council agreed to a new direction for the Marton Water Strategy. This included progressing an alternative approach designed to improve water quality in the short-medium term, while longer-term planning continues. It has three (3) components:*

- Installing ultrasonic algae control systems in the Tūtaenui Reservoir Dams to manage algae blooms during warmer months.*
- Constructing a special treatment plant at the Calico Line bore to improve the groundwater quality from that bore.*
- Blending water from the reservoir dams with water from the Tūtaenui bores during peak demand.*

*The majority of the cost of water is paid for by rates. Specific fees and charges for water are focused on charges for new connections or disconnections and bulk water charges.*

### *Recommendation*

*There are no specific officer recommendations for these submission points.*

### *Action*

*No specific action is recommended.*

## **Topic 2: Regulatory**

### *Submissions*

Helen Koster (013), Kathleen Te Momo-Smith (025), Peter & Darryl Cousins (043) and Daniel Duxfield (046)

### *Summary of submissions*

Submitter 013 comments that services should be subsidised. They consider for the building industry, this helps with presenting advantage/desire to undertake work in the region. Rangitikei needs to attract more people. The advantage would be collection of more rates once building works is complete.

Submitters 025 considers building consents are expensive compared to other Councils and submitter 046 considers building consent fees should be removed.

Submitter 043 raises concerns about swimming pool inspection fees and suggests these should relate to time taken to complete the inspection and administration time. They raise specific concerns about their inspection. At their oral submission they commented that a flat fee for travel would be appropriate.

### *Officer Comment*

*In relation to the comments about building consent fees, Council's Revenue and Financing Policy identifies that greater than 40% of delivering the service should be funded via user fees and charges. This is to reflect that the primary beneficiary is the applicant and that users pays as the primary source of funding is deemed appropriate. It also acknowledges that part of the activity has a public good component which is funded via rates.*

*It is difficult to compare building consent fees collected as different councils have different private/public splits in their revenue and financing policies, resulting in different needs for revenue generation from fees and charges. There are also a wide range of fees and charges within the building consent activity.*

*In relation to the comments raised by submitter 043, the swimming pool inspection fee is a fixed fee of \$260 (which applies to all inspections in the building function such as building consent and general compliance inspections). This is comparable to other councils. It covers the associated administration time and travel time to the site. This approach provides consistency across the district and Officers do not recommend that this fee structure or fee is changed.*

### *Recommendations*

*There are no specific officer recommendations for these submission points.*

### *Action*

*No specific action is recommended.*

## **Topic 3: Parks and Facilities**

### *Submissions*

Libby Rayner (030), Gill Duncan – Taihape Community Board (035) and Katie Deere – Rangitikei Netball (037)

### *Summary of submissions*

Submitter 030 does not consider that parks should have fees. This submitter considers the cost for parks and halls is prohibitive for non-profit groups.

Submitter 035 raises concerns about increases for Kokako Street Hall, when maintenance is not completed.

Submitter 037 raises concerns about discounts in the fees and considers they are confusing. This submitter suggests removing the discounts. Submitter 037 also raises concerns about an increase in lease costs for having a building on Council land.

### *Officer Comment*

*In relation to the comments raised by submitter 030 that parks should not have fees, Council's Proposed Revenue and Financing Policy sets that between 5% and 40% of the activity should be funded by user fees and charges for the Domains activity and less than 5% for the Halls activity. This means rates are the main source of funding for these activities. The Schedule of Fees and Charges provides for a lower fee for local non-profit users.*

*The comments from submitter 35 about the increases for Kokako Hall are noted. Comments about maintenance are addressed through the Annual Plan deliberations. Hall charges for Kokako Street Hall were simplified through the proposed schedule of fees and charges, with charges generally increasing by around inflation.*

*Work is schedule to occur in 2026 on a full review of the charges for parks and reserves. This was to ensure adequate time to engage with users in the redevelopment of those fees.*

*In relation to the comments from submitter 037 about the cost of leases for building on Council land. This charge is proposed to increase by \$10. It is noted that a number of years prior work was completed to standardise this charge. The charge of \$260 per year is set low to encourage and enable groups to maintain their buildings.*

### *Recommendations*

*There are no specific officer recommendations for these submission points.*

### *Action*

*No specific action is recommended.*

## **Topic 4: Rates**

### *Submissions*

Steph Boerboom (004) and Nikita Tweeddale (005)

### *Summary of submissions*

Submitter 004 considers all fees are unreasonable with the rates paid.

Submitter 005 raises concerns about their ability to use services that their rates pay for and that rates are based on their house value.

### *Officer Comment*

*Fees and charges are a mechanism that Council uses to reduce the total amount of rates that need to be collected. Council uses fees and charges where the users of a service/facility can be identified. The fee may cover a large portion of the costs of that activity or a small portion, and this is considered and decided by Council through its*

*Revenue and Finance Policy. The more fees and charges collected, the less rates that need to be collected for those activities.*

*Officers acknowledge that some of Council's rates are set based on capital value. Where fees and charges are used as a funding mechanism, this reduces the amount of funding required from rates.*

#### *Recommendations*

*There are no specific officer recommendations for these submission points.*

#### *Action*

*No specific action is recommended.*

## **Topic 5: Support for fees and charges**

#### *Submissions*

Jo Rangooni (024)

#### *Summary of submissions*

Submitter 024 commented that the proposed changes appear reasonable.

#### *Officer Comment*

*The submitter's comment is noted.*

#### *Recommendations*

*There are no specific officer recommendations for these submission points.*

#### *Action*

*No specific action is recommended.*

## **Additional submission points**

<b>Topic 6</b>	<i>Dog Registration Fees for Working Dogs</i>
<b>Topic 7</b>	<i>Alcohol Licensing</i>

## **Topic 6: Dog Registration Fees for Working Dogs**

#### *Submissions*

Ian Strahan and Laura Morrison - Federated Farmers (036)

### *Summary of submissions*

Submitter 036 requests that Council set a discounted dog registration fee somewhere between \$35 to \$45 per working dog. This should be discounted to a flat fee for 5 or more working dogs, because farmers do not get a rising benefit if they pay for each subsequent dog.

Federated Farmers note the Council's intention to increase registration fees for working dogs. They support user pays and having a lower fees schedule for working dogs (compared to pet dogs). Farm working dogs are highly trained, obedient and always well-cared for and well-supervised. As such, farm dogs generally do not present any sort of 'animal control' problem for councils that require impoundment.

The submitter considers dog registration fees in Rangitikei District should be comparable with registration fees for working dogs in nearby districts to be considered fair and reasonable and provided a table with registration fees and charges from neighbouring districts.

### *Officer Comment*

*Officers acknowledge the submitter's support for a lower fee structure for working dogs and the importance of regional comparability.*

*Benchmarking of nearby councils shows the following working dog fees:*

- *Manawatū District Council: ~\$45–\$61 (no additional discounts for multiple dogs)*
- *Palmerston North City Council: \$63–\$94.50 (no additional discounts for multiple dogs)*
- *Horowhenua District Council: ~\$84–\$94.50 (discounted to \$84 per dog for four or more, penalty fee \$141.75)*
- *Tararua District Council: ~\$65–\$97.50 (first five dogs at full fee, additional dogs at \$7.00 each)*
- *Whanganui District Council: tiered structure \$45–\$60 (\$14 for fourth and subsequent dogs)*

*This indicates an average fee of approximately \$60–\$90 per dog (including penalty fees) across neighbouring districts.*

*In comparison, Rangitikei District Council's fee of \$55 per working dog (penalty fee of \$80) sits below this average and at the lower end of the regional range. Officers therefore consider the fee to be fair and not placing local farmers at a disadvantage.*

*In relation to multiple dogs, the \$12 fee for each dog above five reflects cost recovery only (e.g. tags and administration) and does not contribute to wider animal control costs.*

*While working dogs do generally present a lower enforcement burden, there are still fixed costs associated with maintaining district-wide dog control.*

*On balance, officers consider the current fee structure is appropriate and do not support a further reduction.*

#### *Recommendations*

*There are no specific officer recommendations for these submission points.*

#### *Action*

*No specific action is recommended.*

## **Topic 7: Alcohol Licensing**

#### *Submission*

Jennifer Lamm – Alcohol Healthwatch (040)

#### *Summary of submission*

Submitter 040 requests that Council create a bylaw for the setting of fees and charges for alcohol licensing. The submitter considers that fees set under regulations have not kept pace with the costs incurred by councils. The submitter advocates for 100% cost recovery and requests a review of the costs incurred with licensing occurs.

#### *Officer Comment*

*Officers consider the legislative fees and charges are sufficient to cover administrative cost incurred to provide the relevant administration (and aligned with the funding split in the Council's Revenue and Financing Policy, which for the Public Health Activity is more than 40% from fees and charges). Officers do not consider that a bylaw is the right mechanism to address fees and note that there are insufficient resources to create a bylaw as suggested.*

#### *Recommendations*

*There are no specific officer recommendations for these submission points.*

#### *Action*

*No specific action is recommended.*