

Resource Management Charging Policy (2024 – 2027)





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Version 1 – 1 July 2024

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Highlights

The Resource Management Charging Policy (“Policy”) contains our regime of resource management charges for the region. It comes into force on 1 July 2024 and includes:

- Resource consent application charges
- Consent monitoring charges
- Charges for not complying with a rule in a regional plan or the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)
- Charges for providing information in relation to plans and resource consents
- Application charges for changing a plan or the Regional Policy Statement
- Charges associated with our work administering dams under the Building Act 2004.

The charge out rate for Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) staff for all work relating to our resource management charges is between \$130 – \$170 per hour depending on the level of service provided.

When you apply for a resource consent, an initial fixed application fee is required to be submitted with your application. These fees vary depending on the type of consent you apply for and how your application will be processed. Additional charges may apply depending on the nature and complexity of your application.

Once you receive a consent, you will receive either a one-off or ongoing (eg, quarterly or annual) consent monitoring charge which is split into three parts:

- A customer service charge
- A compliance monitoring charge (variable depending on your consent)
- A state of the environment monitoring (SOE) charge (variable depending on your consent).

Greater Wellington will charge actual and reasonable costs for carrying out and monitoring all abatement notices and enforcement orders. This includes both consented and unconsented activities. All inspections for non-complying environmental incidents will incur a minimum standard charge.

The key changes to the 2021 Policy are:

- From 1 July 2024, there will be an **increase to the charge out rate** for all services Resource management services increase from \$120/hour to \$130/hour (excl. GST). Consent processing and compliance monitoring

services increase from \$140/hour to \$150/hour (excl. GST). Technical and science expert advice services increase from \$155/hour to \$170/hour (excl. GST)¹.

- An **increase in state of the environment monitoring (SOE) charges**. The last review of SOE charges was undertaken in 2021. Greater Wellington’s Revenue and Finance Policy requires that 10-20% of the cost of Knowledge & Insights activities are funded from user charges (SOE charges). In 2021, around 15% of the cost of Knowledge & Insights activities was recovered through the application of this policy. The Policy will recover 13.5% of the cost of Knowledge & Insights activities.
- We have made several other minor amendments to the 2021 – 2024 Policy to update it for 2024 – 2027 Policy.

¹ The Resource Management Charging Policy (2021-2024) identified charge out rate of \$115/hour for resource management services, \$135/hour for consent processing and compliance monitoring services, and \$150/hour for technical and science expert advice services. As required by section 1.5 of that Policy, the charge out rate for all these services was raised by \$5/hour from 1 July 2023.

Part 1: Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 About this document

This document is the Resource Management Charging Policy ("Policy") for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington). It describes the charges that are payable to Greater Wellington for a range of resource management services.

We charge for processing your resource consent application. This charge is made up of an initial fixed application fee and, in some cases, an additional charge when the cost of processing your consent exceeds the initial fixed application fee paid by \$75 or more. Should consent processing costs work out to be at least \$75 below the initial fixed application fee, you will receive a refund.

If you obtain a consent, you will most likely receive a consent monitoring charge.

This document also describes our charges for:

- Processing applications for a change to a Regional Plan or the Regional Policy Statement
- Recovering costs for responding to environmental incidents that are not linked to the operation of a resource consent
- Providing information and/or documents in relation to plans and resource consents
- Administering dams under the Building Act 2004.

All of the charges in the Policy are made under either section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991, section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002, or section 243 of the Building Act 2004. These charges are also consistent with the Greater Wellington Revenue and Funding Policy.

1.2 Our philosophy

The Resource Management Act has an emphasis on the beneficiary pays principle: those who benefit from the use of natural and physical resources are expected to pay the full costs of that use.

The charges in this Policy reflect that philosophy, but they also recognise that the community benefits from much of the environmental monitoring carried out by Greater Wellington. The regional community is therefore expected to share some of the costs of state of the environment monitoring.

1.3 Access to community resources

Greater Wellington manages the community's resources. No individual owns our rivers, aquifers, air, and coastal waters. They are used by the entire regional community. However, by obtaining a resource consent, individuals can access these resources for their own private use and economic benefit.

Greater Wellington's job is to facilitate this resource use. But it must also make sure that the resource use is sustainable, meaning that resources are available both now and in the future. The charges for consent applicants and consent holders in this Policy reflect the reasonable cost of Greater Wellington doing this job.

1.4 Customer service

We are a customer service organisation. We want to provide you with excellent service and value for money. You have a right to high-quality service which comes with the payment of your charges.

We recognise your desire to run a successful business or carry out activities on your land. We see ourselves as a partner in that success, looking after your continued access to the resources that are your raw materials.

To this end, the charges in this Policy are:

- Reasonable, fair, and consistent
- Based on the services we deliver
- Able to be estimated before you start your activity.

If you want help with your consent, information about our monitoring programmes, or have a query about your account, email us at notifications@gw.govt.nz or call us on 0800 496 734 and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

1.5 Charge out rate and SOE cost recovery

Many of the charges identified in this Policy are determined based on staff charge out rates. The staff charge out rates at the commencement of this Policy (1 July 2024) are:

Table 1.1: Charge out rates

Hourly charge out rate	Excl. GST	Incl. GST
Resource management services includes work associated with administration of consent applications, resource consents, and information requests	\$130.00	\$149.50
Consent processing, compliance monitoring, and environmental incident response services includes work associated with processing consent applications, monitoring resource consents and permitted activities, dam activities under the Building Act, and responding to environmental incidents	\$150.00	\$172.50
Technical or science expert services for technical and/or science expert advice on consent applications, compliance monitoring, and environmental incidents	\$170.00	\$195.50

Our state of the environment (SOE) monitoring charges are also determined based on staff and material costs. The SOE charges at the commencement of this Policy (1 July 2024) are set out in Part 2 of this Policy based on costs assessments provided in Appendix 1.

As this Policy will be in force for a three-year period to coincide with the three year cycle for Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan (2024-2034), a review of charge out rates and SOE monitoring charges will be undertaken and adjusted as required during the period of this Policy.

The following process will be undertaken when reviewing charge out rates and SOE monitoring charges:

- The review will be undertaken in May-June each year with any changes commencing from 1 July.
- When reviewing the charge out rate, data will be collated on changes in personnel costs including salary changes during the previous year. Any increase of staff charge out rates will reflect the actual movement in Greater Wellington personnel costs.
- When reviewing SOE monitoring charges, data on costs of SOE monitoring programmes will be used to update charges to ensure the set cost recovery rate of 13.5% is maintained.

Following the review, if there are changes made, the Policy will be updated to reflect the changes including the rationale for the changes and demonstration that the changes satisfy the above process and principles outlined in section 2 of this Policy.

1.6 Goods and Services Tax

The charges and formulae described in this document **do not include** GST unless otherwise stated.

2. Principles

The principles which have guided Greater Wellington in setting its resource management charges are set out below.

2.1 Charges must be lawful

Greater Wellington can only levy charges which are allowed by the Resource Management Act, the Local Government Act, and the Building Act.

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act provides for consent application charges, consent administration and monitoring charges, and charges for carrying out state of the environment monitoring. Applications for the preparation of, or changes to, regional plans or policy statements may also be charged. This section also covers charging for information in respect of plans and resource consents and the supply of documents.

Section 150 of the Local Government Act enables Greater Wellington to prescribe the fees payable in respect of any inspection made by Greater Wellington under the Local Government Act or any other legislation. This provides for recovering the costs of responding to environmental incidents.

Section 243 of the Building Act allows for Greater Wellington to impose fees or charges for performing functions and services under the Act. It also allows Greater Wellington to recover its costs from a dam owner should we need to carry out building work in respect of a dangerous dam.

2.2 Charges must be reasonable

The sole purpose of a charge is to recover the reasonable costs incurred by Greater Wellington in respect of the activity to which the charge relates – see Resource Management Act (section 36AAA(2)), Local Government Act (section 150), and Building Act (section 243).

2.3 Charges must be fair

Charges must be fair and relate to consent holders' activities. Greater Wellington can only charge consent holders to the extent that their actions have contributed to the need for Greater Wellington's work.

Greater Wellington must also consider the benefits to the community and to consent holders when setting a charge. It would be inequitable to charge consent holders for resource management work done entirely in the interests of the regional community, with no associated benefits to their resource use, and *vice versa*. We take this into account when setting the proportion of charges we wish to recover for state of the environment and compliance monitoring from an individual consent holder.

Where possible, Greater Wellington will look for opportunities to streamline and improve processes to ensure that consent processing and compliance monitoring functions continue to be cost effective and efficient.

With regard to state of the environment monitoring, Greater Wellington must also relate any charge to the effects of consent holders' activities on the environment (see Resource Management Act section 36AAA(3)(c)).

2.4 Charges must be uniformly applied

Charges should be applied uniformly and consistently to users whose activities require them to hold a consent, and where Greater Wellington incurs ongoing costs.

2.5 Charges must be simple to understand

Charges should be clear and easy to understand. The administration and collection of charges should be simple and cost effective.

2.6 Charges must be transparent

Charges should be calculated in a way that is clear, logical, and justifiable. The work of Greater Wellington for which costs are to be recovered should be identifiable.

2.7 Charges must be predictable and certain

Consent applicants and resource users are entitled to certainty about the cost of their dealings with Greater Wellington. The manner in which charges are set should enable customers to evaluate the extent of their liability.

Resource users need to know the cost of obtaining and maintaining a consent to manage their business and to plan for future growth and development. Charges should not change unnecessarily: any charges must be transparent and fully justified.

2.8 Greater Wellington must act responsibly

Greater Wellington should implement its charging policy in a responsible manner. Where there are significant changes in charges, Greater Wellington should provide advance warning and give consent holders the opportunity to make adjustments.

3. Application charges

3.1 Introduction

This section of this Policy describes our charges for your:

1. Application for a resource consent, application to change conditions or a lapse date on an existing consent, application to transfer an existing consent, certificates of compliance, and deemed permitted activities
2. Application for the preparation or change of a regional plan or the Regional Policy Statement.

3.2 Applications for resource consents

3.2.1 Types of resource consent and resource consent application process

Resource consents permit you to do something that would otherwise contravene the Resource Management Act. Greater Wellington processes the following consent types as classified by section 87 of the RMA:

- Water permit
- Discharge permit
- Land use consent
- Coastal permit

Resource consents are processed as either non-notified, limited notified or publicly notified. The majority of consent applications are processed as non-notified consents. Our staff are happy to provide advice about your application for a resource consent. Our aim is to ensure your application is processed quickly and simply, while meeting the requirements set down in the Resource Management Act.

3.2.2 Charges for processing applications

Greater Wellington charges consent applicants for any costs incurred when processing resource consent applications and most other application types. Charges include the costs of technical assessment, Resource Management Act assessment, peer review work and administration costs. We may also charge for travel time associated with site visits.

Our policy is that we charge the actual and reasonable costs for processing a resource consent application or other application type.

This is based on the charge out rates identified in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Staff charge out rates for processing applications

Hourly charge out rate	Excl. GST	Incl. GST
Resource management services including consent registration, database entry, and notified consent processing support	\$130.00	\$149.50
Consent processing services including assessment of consent applications, decision recommendations	\$150.00	\$172.50
Technical or science expert services for technical and/or science expert advice on consent applications	\$170.00	\$195.50

Note: Staff charge out rates may alter following annual reviews as identified in section 1 of the Policy. The rates are not for any **external** expert services – the direct actual and reasonable costs are applied where external experts are required.

Before beginning to process an application, we require an initial fixed application fee to be paid in full. These application fees are shown in Tables 3.2 and 3.3 and are explained in more detail in sections 3.3 and 3.4.

Under section 36AAB(2) of the Resource Management Act, **we will not begin to process any application until the initial fixed application fee is paid.**

Where processing costs exceed the initial fixed application fee an additional charge for actual and reasonable costs will be billed after the consent has been issued.

Please note that application processing charges apply **even if your consent application is declined or you withdraw your application.**

3.2.3 Charges associated with pre-application advice

Greater Wellington provides a pre-application advice service. Getting things right early in the process can save considerable time and expense later on. We believe it is important that you know how to apply and how your application will be processed.

Staff time for the following pre-application services are **free of charge** for individuals or small-medium enterprises:

- Initial pre-application meeting (1-2 hours)
- Site visit (1-2 hours)
- Follow up written advice following meeting and/or site visit (1- 2 hours).

The staff time associated with our free pre-application service is capped at a total of 1-2 hours for each of the above services and a cumulative total of 4 hours. It is only applicable to non-notified consents where the effects on the environment are considered to be minor.

The free pre-application service does **not** apply in the following circumstances:

- For larger or complex non-notified consents and/or notified consents
- Where external experts are engaged in pre-application services,
- Where time is spent reviewing draft applications including any Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE).
- When the free pre-application criteria is exceeded.

In the above circumstances we will charge for pre-application services. We will advise you before we start charging for pre-application advice.

Pre-application costs will be calculated at the end of the service. In most instances charges will be invoiced separately and prior to the resource consent application process. In a small number of circumstances the pre-application costs may be included in the final consent processing charges.

3.3 Application charges for non-notified resource consents, and other application types

3.3.1 Schedule of fees

Resource consent applications are processed as non-notified consents (i.e. not advertised in the newspaper and public submissions not called for) if their effects are minor, and those who might be affected by the activity agree to the consent being granted. The initial fixed application fees for non-notified resource consents are outlined in Table 3.2 on the following page.

There are other application types for resource management services. Most of these incur application charges which are also outlined in Table 3.2 on the following page. There are no charges for surrendering a resource consent.

All initial fixed application fees are the average cost of processing the application type. In many cases they will be the total cost you pay. However, for some applications the cost of processing may vary from these charges. In some circumstances you may receive a refund on your application fee or we may require an additional charge. When the processing costs are nearing the application fee paid, and costs are likely to significantly exceed the application fee paid, you will be advised of any potential additional charges.

Table 3.2: Initial fixed application fees for non-notified resource consents, and other application types

Non-notified consent Type (s87 Resource Management Act)	Initial fee (excl. GST)	Initial fee incl. GST)	Hours
Discharge to Land	\$2,660.00	\$3,059.00	18
Discharge to Land/Water / Land Use (combined earthworks and operational stormwater greater than 0.3 hectare)	\$5,960.00	\$6,854.00	40
Discharge to Land/Water / Land Use (earthworks or operational stormwater greater than 0.3 hectare)	\$3,860.00	\$4,439.00	26
Discharge to Land/Water / Land Use (combined earthworks and operational stormwater less than 0.3 hectare)	\$3,860.00	\$4,439.00	26
Discharge to Land/Water / Land Use (earthworks or operational stormwater less than 0.3 hectare)	\$1,460.00	\$1,679.00	10
Discharge to Land / Land Use (intensive winter grazing - standard)	\$1,010.00	\$1,161.50	7
Discharge to Land / Land Use (intensive winter grazing – non-standard)	\$2,060.00	\$2,369.00	14
Discharge to Water (other)	\$3,860.00	\$4,439.00	26
Discharge to Air (incl. greenhouse gas emissions)	\$2,660.00	\$3,059.00	18
Take/Use, Water – new application	\$2,360.00	\$2,714.00	16
Take/Use, Water – replacement/renewal application	\$1,910.00	\$2,196.50	13
Dam/Divert Water	\$1,310.00	\$1,506.50	9
Discharge Land/Water / Land Use (vegetation clearance, land clearing, logging, soil disturbance, forestry)	\$2,060.00	\$2,369.00	14
Land Use - works in the bed of a lake or river, bridge, culvert	\$1,760.00	\$2,024.50	12
Land Use (bore) – standard	\$1010.00	\$1,161.50	7*
Land Use (bore) – non-standard (eg, sand trap/bore spear/geotechnical bore outside of Lower Hutt groundwater zone and any community drinking water supply protection area)	\$785.00	\$902.75	5.5*
Coastal Permit (existing boatshed or driving on beaches)	\$935.00	\$1,075.25	6.5
Coastal Permit (other including new boatshed)	\$2,060.00	\$2,369.00	14
Other Consent Types	\$1,460.00	\$1,679.00	10
Change of consent conditions – administrative conditions only (s127) – see key note 3 below	\$710.00	\$816.50	5
Change of consent conditions – all other conditions (s127) – see key note 3 below	\$1,460.00	\$1,679.00	10

Other Application Type	Initial fee (excl. GST)	Initial fee incl. GST)	Hours
Change of lapse date (s125)	\$600.00	\$690.00	4
Transfer of water permit or discharge permit from site to site (s136(2)(b) & s137(3))	\$1,460.00	\$1,679.00	10
Certificate of compliance (s139)	\$1,760.00	\$2,024.00	12
Deemed permitted activities (s87BB) – see key note 4 below	\$450.00	\$517.50	3
Surrender of consent (s138)	No charge		
Transfer of land use consent, coastal permit, water permit, discharge permit to another person at the same site (s134, 135, 136(1), s136(2)(a), s137(1) – see key note 5 below	\$130.00	\$149.50	1

Key notes:

1. The hours specified above for most consent types include 2 hours for resource management services (\$130/hour), and the remaining balance for consent processing services (\$150/hour) and any expert advice. If charge out rates alter following any annual review as identified in section 1 of the Policy, the above initial fixed application fees will be changed to reflect any adjusted charge out rate.
2. The initial fixed application fee for consent types marked with a * includes a consent monitoring charge of \$75.00. This covers 0.5 hours for compliance monitoring (e.g. registering bore logs on our Wells Database). This is because the majority of these consent types are one-off and not monitored with a site inspection.
3. For applications to change consent conditions, *administrative conditions* include monitoring and reporting requirements. *All other conditions* include conditions relating to avoiding, remedying, or mitigating environmental effects, e.g. rates of take/discharge, water quality standards, maintaining environmental flows, construction methodology.
4. Deemed permitted activities (DPAs) are generally invoiced when a decision on a DPA is made in writing. If the actual and reasonable costs are less than the fixed fee of \$450.00, a lesser fee will be applied. If the actual and reasonable costs are greater than the fixed fee of \$450.00, an additional charge will apply.
5. This only applies to transfers of consent(s) to another person/entity which do not include any changes to the activity or conditions. Payment of the fixed fee must be made by one party at the time of submitting the request form. Where other changes are required, the actual and reasonable cost of transferring consent(s) are recovered. These costs are invoiced to the new consent holder at the completion of the transfer.

3.3.2 Waiver of fees

Greater Wellington may, at its discretion, waive non-notified fees in relation to any consents required for wetland restoration. This is because Greater Wellington supports the protection of wetland ecosystems and their restoration.

Where there is more than one application required for the same proposal, an initial fixed application charge is required for each application. In some instances, Greater Wellington may waive, at its discretion, the requirement to pay all initial fixed application fees associated with multiple applications.

3.4 Application charges for limited and publicly notified resource consents

3.4.1 Schedule of fees

In general, a resource consent is **publicly notified** (i.e. advertised on our website and public submissions called for) if its effects are more than minor. Where the effects on the environment are considered to be minor, but it is not possible to obtain the written agreement of all those who might be affected by a proposed activity, the application is **limited notified**.

The fixed application charges for limited and publicly notified consents are required to be paid at two points in time:

1. When the application is lodged (initial application fee)
2. When a hearing is notified (further application fee in the event that a hearing is required to determine the application)

The initial fixed application charges for a limited notified or publicly notified resource consent are as follows:

Table 3.3: Initial fixed application fees for limited notified or publicly notified resource consents

Resource consent process	Initial fee (excl. GST)	Initial fee (incl. GST)
Initial limited notified application fee (up to hearing)	\$10,000	\$11,500
Initial publicly notified application fee (up to hearing)	\$25,000	\$28,750
Further application fee (if hearing scheduled for less than 5 days)	\$25,000	\$28,750
Further application fee (if hearing scheduled for 5 days or more)	\$50,000	\$57,500

Key notes:

1. The initial fixed application fee for limited notified or publicly notified consents applies to each proposal and not each consent application if multiple consents are required for the same proposal.
2. The initial fixed application fee also applies to changes to consent conditions (s127, Resource Management Act) which are required to be processed on a limited notified or publicly notified basis.

Under section 36AAB(2) of the Resource Management Act, the processing of the application will not commence until the initial fixed application fee is paid in full. If a hearing is required, the processing of the application will be stopped and, if required, the hearing postponed until the full fee is paid.

The actual and reasonable cost of processing a limited or publicly notified resource consent varies considerably and is dependent on factors such as how well the applicant has consulted relevant parties, how well the application is prepared, the number of submissions received, and how difficult the issues are to resolve.

3.4.2 Resource consent hearings

The cost of the Hearing Panel when made up from Council members is charged as per the schedule set in the Local Government Members (2024/25) (Local Authorities) Determination 2024 and any further updated Determination. Council members are reimbursed for time spent at a formal site inspection, preparing for a hearing, the hearing, and in deliberations. At the time of writing this Policy the charges are as follows:

- Chairperson of hearing panel – \$116/hour
- Elected member on hearing panel – \$93/hour

Independent commissioners can be appointed to decide your consent application in the following circumstances:

1. An iwi commissioner is commonly appointed to a Hearing Panel
2. Where Greater Wellington considers the issues are sufficiently complex in nature, or there is significant public interest
3. Where there is a conflict of interest, eg, where an internal department of Greater Wellington is applying for resource consent
4. At the request of a submitter
5. At the request of an applicant.

Where independent commissioners are appointed at the request of the applicant or Council, the full costs of the independent commissioners are charged to the applicant.

Where independent commissioners are appointed at the request of submitters, the applicant pays for the hearing costs that would have been incurred if there was a Hearing Panel of Councillors, whilst the balance of any additional costs are passed on to the submitters who requested independent commissioners.

Any disbursements incurred by the Hearing Panel and/or independent commissioners such as photocopying, meals, travel and accommodation are charged to the applicant.

3.4.3 Cost estimates and regular invoicing

For limited and publicly notified resource consent applications we will provide you with a summarised cost estimate which we will update where necessary.

Greater Wellington has the discretion to invoice additional charges during the processing of an application and once processing has been completed. Once any consent processing costs exceed the paid initial fee or further fixed fee, Greater Wellington will regularly invoice (eg, monthly or quarterly) or at key stages of the notified process.

3.4.4 Application charges where the application is processed by Environment Protection Authority or via direct referral to Environment Court

Where an application is processed by the Environment Protection Authority either through any fast track consenting process or when proposal of national significance that the Minister for the Environment directs to be processed by the Environment Protection Authority, Greater Wellington will seek to recover all actual and reasonable costs incurred from the applicant.

Where an application is processed via direct referral to the Environment Court, all actual and reasonable costs incurred by Greater Wellington up to referral of the application to the Environment Court will be charged to the applicant. All costs incurred after that point will be sought through the Environment Court costs order process.

3.5 **Application charges for the preparation or change of a Regional Plan or the Regional Policy Statement²**

3.5.1 Receiving, accepting or adopting a request

When Greater Wellington receives a request to prepare or change a Regional Plan or to change the Regional Policy Statement, it may treat the request in one of three ways.

Greater Wellington may decide to:

1. Decline the request. In this case, the request would go no further
2. "Accept" the request, but charge the applicant the cost of processing the application
3. "Adopt" the request. In this case we will meet the cost of making the change after the initial assessment.

A request may be adopted if Greater Wellington considers the benefit of the change accrues wholly to the community as distinct from the person or persons making the request.

² Only Ministers of the Crown or local authorities can apply to change the Regional Policy Statement.

In all three cases above, we charge the actual and reasonable costs for the initial assessment of the merits of the request. The application charge for this assessment is set out in Table 3.4. The actual costs of this assessment will vary depending on the nature and complexity of the request.

The charge out rate for any actual and reasonable costs are the same as those outlined in Table 3.1.

3.5.2 Schedule of fees

The charges levied by Greater Wellington in relation to a Regional Plan or Regional Policy Statement changes are set out in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4: Initial fixed application fee for the preparation or change of a Regional Plan or the Regional Policy Statement

	Initial fee (excl. GST)	Initial fee (incl. GST)
Charge for assessing a request before deciding to decline, accept, or adopt it; <u>and</u>	\$6,900.00	\$7,935.00
Charge for processing a request which is accepted; <u>or</u>	\$17,250.00	\$19,837.50
Charge for processing a request which is adopted	No charge	

The charge for processing a change which Greater Wellington has accepted (but not adopted) is intended to provide for:

- Public notification of the change and the calling of submissions
- Preparation of a summary of submissions
- Advertising for further submissions.

The actual cost will vary depending on the number and complexity of submissions received.

The charge **does not** include any cost associated with processing the change after the receipt of further submissions. This is because the amount of work necessary to take the proposed change through the remainder of the process laid down in the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act may vary considerably depending on the magnitude or complexity of the proposal and the number of submissions received.

This can best be estimated once the public has demonstrated its interest in the change through the public submission and further submission phase. We will recover any actual and reasonable costs that exceed the amounts shown in this section by way of an additional charge under section 36 of the Resource Management Act.

We will provide an estimate of the total cost of the application when the period for submissions on the requested change has closed.

If the cost of processing a request which has been accepted is less than \$17,250 (excl. GST), we will refund the difference.

3.6 Charging basis

To process your resource consent application or other application type, or request to change a Regional Plan or the Regional Policy Statement, we charge for our actual and reasonable costs in the following way:

1. Staff services:

Staff time is charged on the basis of actual time spent. The charge-out rate is dependent on the services provided as outlined below:

Hourly charge out rate	Excl. GST
Resource management services including consent registration, database entry, and notified consent processing support	\$130.00
Consent processing or plan change services including assessment of consent applications, decision recommendations	\$150.00
Technical or science expert services for technical and/or science expert advice	\$170.00

Note: Charge out rates may alter following annual reviews as identified in section 1 of the Policy.

2. External consultant services:

External consultant services are charged on the basis of actual and reasonable cost of the services provided.

3. Iwi services:

Where iwi services are required to work through any matters raised through the resource consent process, Greater Wellington will (at its discretion) pass on the actual and reasonable costs of iwi providing those services. This will most likely occur in any resource consent applications where the activity is undertaken in or near a Schedule C site of significance to mana whenua as prescribed in the Natural Resources Plan.

(Explanatory note: Greater Wellington incurs the cost of standard comments provided by iwi for non-notified consent applications. This cost is not passed on to consent applicants. However, in instances such as those described above, there may be considerable time and associated costs for iwi to appropriately advise on a resource consent application. In such instances, consent applicants are encouraged to engage and reimburse iwi services directly. This policy recovers costs of iwi services in the

circumstances where it is necessary for Greater Wellington to pass on the actual and reasonable costs of iwi services.

4. Disbursements:

Disbursements include advertising expenses, laboratory analysis, consultants, photocopying (at 20 cents per A4 page), and hearing costs (other than staff time) eg, venue hire.

The fees do not include any charges payable to the Crown in respect of any application (eg, the Maritime New Zealand's fee for checking the navigational safety of maritime structures).

3.7 Resource Management (Discount on Administrative Charges) Regulations 2010

3.7.1 Introduction

Changes to the Resource Management Act in 2009 resulted in the implementation of the Resource Management (Discount on Administrative Charges) Regulations “Discount Regulations” which sets a default discount policy for resource consents that are not processed within statutory timeframes.

Whilst the Discount Regulations allow for Councils to implement a more generous policy, Greater Wellington’s policy is to adhere to the Discount Regulations.

3.7.2 Value and scope of Discount Regulations

The Discount Regulations set out a discount of 1% for each day an application is processed over the statutory timeframes specified in the Resource Management Act, up to a maximum of 50% (ie, 50 working days).

The Discount Regulations apply to the processing of most resource consent applications or applications to change consent conditions. They do not apply to the following:

- Applications to extend consent lapsing periods (s127)
- Consent reviews (s128)
- Certificates of compliance (s139)
- Replacement consent applications when applications are processed prior to the expiry of a resource consent
- When an applicant withdraws a resource consent application.

If your application is not processed within statutory timeframes, you will be advised at the time a decision is made on your consent and a discount will be identified accordingly in line with the Discount Regulations.

If you have any questions regarding your charges and whether the Discount Regulations apply to the processing of your consent, email us at notifications@gw.govt.nz or phone us on 0800 496734.

The Discount Regulations can be viewed in full at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has prepared some helpful guidance on the Discount Regulations³. This information can be accessed at the MfE website www.mfe.govt.nz.

3.8 Your right of objection and appeal

If you consider any additional charge (that is any charge which exceeds the initial fixed application fees specified in Tables 3.2, 3.3, or 3.4) is unreasonable, you may object to Greater Wellington in accordance with s357 of the Resource Management Act. You need to make your objection in writing to Greater Wellington within 15 working days of receiving your invoice. Greater Wellington will hear your objection and make a decision on whether to uphold it.

If you are still not satisfied, you may appeal Greater Wellington's decision to the Environment Court.

You may not object to any of the charges listed in Tables 3.2, 3.3, or 3.4.

³ Ministry for the Environment. 2010. *Resource Management (Discount on Administrative Charges) Regulations 2010 – Implementation Guidance*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.

4. Consent monitoring charges for resource consents

4.1 Introduction

This section of the Policy sets the charges which Greater Wellington levies annually in relation to resource consents. Under section 36(1)(c) of the Resource Management Act, Greater Wellington may charge for costs associated with its ongoing consent management responsibilities. These include:

- The administration and monitoring of resource consents
- The gathering of information necessary to monitor the state of the region's environment.

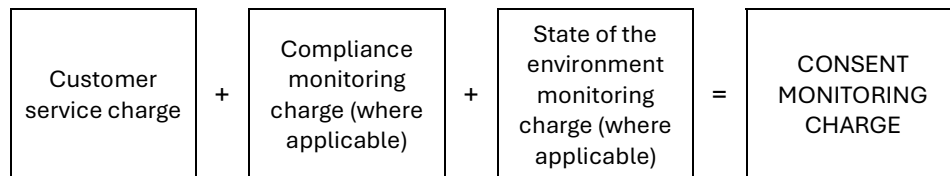
Where the charges set in this section are inadequate to cover Greater Wellington's reasonable costs, Greater Wellington may impose an additional charge under section 36(5) of the Resource Management Act.

4.2 Consent monitoring charges

The components of the consent monitoring charge which consent holders face are:

- A fixed customer service charge
- A fixed or variable charge for compliance monitoring
- A fixed or variable charge for state of the environment monitoring.

Your Consent Monitoring Charge



4.3 The customer service charge

Summary: The annual customer service charge for administering your consent is \$75 (excl. GST). Where there are multiple consent IDs for the same activity (ie, all under the same WGN/WAR consent number) a discount of \$20 per consent will apply for any additional consents.

4.3.1 What we do for your money

There is a cost in providing a range of customer services relating to consents. We pass this cost on to consent holders. The services we provide are:

- Information and advice about your consent
- The maintenance of an up-to-date record of your consent on our database
- A record of any changes in the status of your consent (eg, if you surrender your consent)⁴
- The administration of these charges
- The maintenance and storage of your permanent consent file.

We welcome any enquiry about your consent and are happy to assist you in understanding these charges. Please email us at notifications@gw.govt.nz or phone us on 0800 496 734.

4.3.2 The basis for the customer service charge

The basis for the customer service charge is the time spent on the above tasks by Greater Wellington staff. As most consents take about the same time to maintain, this cost is averaged across all consent holders. A standard customer service charge applies to all consents.

The charge includes overhead costs which are related to the services we deliver. These costs include office rental, stationery, and IT costs. Only those overheads that can be reasonably attributed to the provision of consenting services to customers are charged for. Other Greater Wellington overheads, such as the cost of corporate services, management, and Council meetings are **not** charged to consent holders.

4.3.3 Application of the customer service charge

The customer service charge is \$75 per consent per year (excl. GST).

The full customer service charge applies to consents which:

- Are active and where there is ongoing administration and/or monitoring by Greater Wellington or by the consent holder
- Are temporarily inactive, but where there will be ongoing administration and/or monitoring when the consent becomes active.

⁴ We will not accept a surrender or transfer of a consent unless all outstanding fees have been paid.

Where a consent holder has multiple consents for the same activity, a discount is applied to each consent after the first consent as shown below:

No. of consents for an activity	Cost (excl. GST)
1	\$75
2	\$130
3	\$185
4	\$240
5	\$295

Generally an activity is considered to have the same location and same purpose and be linked to one WGN/WAR number. Where there may be different WGN/WAR numbers they will be considered as a separate activity, unless special circumstances apply.

4.3.4 Circumstances where the customer service charge does not apply

The customer service charge does not apply:

- For some land use consents (bores and works in the bed of a lake or river) and coastal permits, where no compliance inspections are required to be undertaken
- When the activity for which the consent was granted has concluded, and the consent will most likely not be active in the future
- In other circumstances at our discretion.

The charge does not apply in these circumstances because little or no work is required to maintain the record on the database in the long term.

4.4 The compliance monitoring charge

Summary: Your compliance monitoring programme is tailored to your individual circumstances. You pay only the cost of monitoring your consent.

4.4.1 What we do for your money

The purpose of compliance monitoring is to confirm that consent holders are meeting the conditions of their consents. The conditions on resource consents are designed to control any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of the consent. We need to know that consents are being complied with. In this way we can ensure the resource you are using remains fit for you and other consent holders to use.

We have a strategic compliance monitoring programme that prioritises monitoring of particular consented activities. In principle, this programme focuses our monitoring on consents likely to have an environmental impact if their conditions are not being complied with.

How your activity fits within our strategic compliance monitoring programme is determined at the time your consent is granted and when our programme is reviewed each year. How much compliance monitoring is required varies according to the nature of your activity, its extent and duration, and its potential environmental impact.

As part of the compliance monitoring programme for a consent, we may:

- Carry out site visits and inspections (where required)
- Review management plans and/or the results of any monitoring carried out by you or your consultants
- Advise you on the outcome of the compliance visit.

Occasionally, we may also need to use outside expertise to assist with the monitoring of some consents. The costs of these experts may be included as part of your compliance monitoring charge.

4.4.2 The basis for the compliance monitoring charge

The basis for the compliance monitoring charge is the actual and reasonable cost of carrying out your compliance monitoring programme. You pay only the cost of monitoring compliance with your consent.

Greater Wellington has considered the criteria in section 36 of the Resource Management Act before setting this charge. We consider that the need for this type of monitoring arises only because of consent holders activities and that the benefits accrue entirely to consent holders. It is appropriate, then, for consent holders to bear the reasonable cost of this monitoring.

Fixed and variable charges are made up of the cost of staff time to carry out an inspection (if required), audit any monitoring information provided by you, follow up any non-compliance, and reporting back to you outcomes of any compliance monitoring (if required).

The charge-out rate is dependent on the services provided as outlined in Table 4.1 below:

Table 4.1: Charge out rates for consent monitoring

Hourly charge out rate	Excl. GST
Compliance monitoring services including undertaking site visits and auditing any monitoring information supplied by consent holders	\$150.00
Technical or science expert services for technical and/or science expert advice on compliance monitoring information supplied by consent holders	\$170.00

Note: Charge out rates may alter following annual reviews as identified in section 1 of the Policy.

Where Greater Wellington uses an external consultant, the actual and reasonable costs of consultant services will be passed on to the consent holder.

Where iwi services are required to work through any matters relating to compliance monitoring, Greater Wellington may at its discretion, pass on the actual and reasonable costs of iwi providing those services. This will most likely occur for any resource consents where the activity is undertaken in or near a Schedule C site of significance to mana whenua as prescribed in the Natural Resources Plan. Any such, monitoring costs are also likely to have been identified at the time your resource consent is processed.

4.4.3 Application of the compliance monitoring charge

The compliance monitoring charge applies to all consents for which a compliance monitoring programme is established. Depending on the activity, either fixed or variable charges will apply.

Fixed charges are set charges which generally apply to consented activities where conditions are very similar or the same. Fixed charges for compliance activities are provided in Part 2A of this Policy.

Where the actual and reasonable costs incurred by us in carrying out compliance monitoring exceed any fixed compliance monitoring charge identified for your resource consent by \$75.00 or more, these costs may be recovered by way of an additional **variable charge** (see below).

Where non-compliance is observed the following fixed charges may be applied.

Table 4.2: Fixed non-compliance charges

Non-compliance fixed charge	Excl. GST
Advisory notice (issued to remedy any non-compliance)	\$300.00
Late submission of management plan and/or monitoring information	\$150.00

Note: Fixed non-compliance charges may be adjusted if there is a change to the charge out rate following any annual review as identified in section 1 of the Policy.

The above fixed non-compliance charges may be waived at the discretion of Greater Wellington.

Fixed charges under section 36(1) of the Resource Management Act are not open to objection or appeal.

Variable charges apply to activities where consent conditions and the nature and scale of activity are likely to vary or when the fixed charge is not sufficient to recover the actual and reasonable cost of monitoring your consent. All variable charges are based on actual and reasonable costs since the previous invoice. There may be some instances where the variable charge may be \$0 as no monitoring is undertaken in the previous year.

Variable charges are considered additional charges under section 36(5) of the Resource Management Act. Section 36(7) provides for any additional charge to be open to objection and appeal.

All **fixed and variable charges** for compliance monitoring activities are provided in Part 2A of this Policy.

Where we carry out an inspection as a result of an **incident notification** (for example, a complaint about water pollution or odour release), the consent holder is only charged if the consent is breached and/or non-compliance is observed.

4.4.4 Circumstances where the annual compliance monitoring charge does not apply

Some activities in our strategic compliance monitoring programme are not inspected. Only minimal monitoring is completed for these activities e.g. bores.

For these activities a compliance monitoring charge of \$75.00 is included when the consent is processed. Note: In some circumstances, for some of the above activities an inspection may be required and fixed or variable charges will apply.

4.5 The state of the environment monitoring charge

Summary: Greater Wellington charges consent holders for the cost of state of the environment monitoring where that monitoring benefits consent holders. The charge you pay is related to the effects of your activity on the environment. Consent holders pay for only a part of the cost of this monitoring. The regional community pays for the rest as it also benefits from the information gained.

4.5.1 What we do for your money

State of the environment (SOE) monitoring is the gathering of information about a resource (water, land, and air) so that it can be managed on a sustainable basis. Greater Wellington is tasked under section 35 of the Resource Management Act to monitor the state of the environment in the Wellington region in order to effectively carry out our functions. The information is used, amongst other purposes, to determine the nature and state of a resource, to enable us to grant resource consents with confidence, and to check whether the management tools for resources in regional plans are working properly.

Greater Wellington carries out SOE monitoring in many of the air sheds, catchments and groundwater zones of the region. We operate a network of hydrological recording stations which measure such variables as rainfall, river flow, and water depth in aquifers. We also routinely test the quality of water in our rivers, aquifers, and the sea. In addition, we monitor ambient air quality.

State of the environment monitoring and investigations focus on a resource in a more general way than the monitoring of an individual consent (eg, a catchment or area basis). We measure a range of environmental variables to identify a resource's availability and quality, and the uses to which it is being put. In relation to rivers for example, we monitor changes in water quality and quantity to ensure that our rivers remain available for a wide range of private and community uses, both now and in the future.

We carry out a wide range of monitoring and investigations and produce publicly available information on:

- The quantity and quality of surface water
- The quantity and quality of groundwater
- Coastal water quality
- Air quality.

Greater Wellington seeks to optimise and co-ordinate its SOE monitoring programme in a cost effective manner in order to avoid duplicating monitoring that may be undertaken by consent holders.

You can find out about the resource you are using by accessing this information: it may be useful in operating your business. Please contact our Knowledge and Insights team on 0800 496 734 for more information.

4.5.2 The basis of the state of the environment charge

The basis of the SOE monitoring charge is the cost to Greater Wellington of undertaking this monitoring. However, we only charge consent holders for a portion of our monitoring that benefits consent holders. The cost is shared with the regional community (ie, ratepayers), as they also need this type of monitoring and benefit from the knowledge acquired through the programme. We do not charge consent holders for monitoring undertaken for flood warning, river management, or regional planning purposes.

The benefits of state of the environment monitoring for consent holders are:

- Protection of the resource through its management on a sustainable basis
- Early warning of changes in resources
- Reduced costs for future consent applications
- Better information to aid business planning.

However, as indicated above, SOE monitoring is carried out for a variety of reasons, of which meeting the needs of consent holders is but one. It is appropriate to only charge consent holders for their share of this monitoring.

Greater Wellington's SOE monitoring programme is undertaken by our Knowledge and Insights team. Greater Wellington's Revenue and Financing Policy requires that between 10%-20% of total programmes costs is recovered from resource users (ie, consent holders). The 2021-24 Policy recovered approximately 15% total programme identified with SOE monitoring. This Policy aims to recover 13.5%. Further information on the basis of SOE monitoring charges is provided in Part 2, Appendix 1.

Greater Wellington considers that the SOE monitoring charges established by this Policy meet the requirements for setting SOE monitoring charges in section 36AAA of the Resource Management Act. As part of these requirements, Greater Wellington also examines the monitoring programme to determine whether consent holders benefit from it to a greater extent than other members of the regional community. Greater Wellington is of the view that consent holders do enjoy a benefit which non-consent holders do not, that is, a legal right to access the resource for their economic benefit.

4.5.3 Application of the state of the environment charge

A SOE monitoring charge applies to most consent types. This includes:

- Land use consents where there are ongoing environmental effects relating to our environmental science programme
- Water permits to take surface water or groundwater
- Discharge permits to discharge contaminants to land
- Discharge permits to discharge contaminants to fresh water
- Discharge permits to discharge contaminants to air
- Coastal permits to discharge contaminants to coastal water
- Coastal permits where there are ongoing environmental effects relating to our environmental science programme.

A scale of fixed SOE monitoring charges are applied to consents. These charges vary due to the following factors:

- The nature and scale of activity, eg, the size of a water take or type of discharge
- The level of stress a particular catchment or groundwater zone is under, eg, the level of allocation in a groundwater zone.

The scale of fixed charges applied to consents are more specifically identified in Part 2B of this Policy.

4.5.4 Waiver or reduction in state of the environment monitoring charges

Greater Wellington may waive or reduce the SOE monitoring charge in the following instances:

1. Where an activity has multiple consents (relating to the same consent type), the SOE monitoring charge may be reduced.
2. Where through the operation of the formula for setting the charge in the Schedules to this Policy, the resulting amount does not satisfy the principles of reasonableness and fairness in sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this Policy.

4.5.5 Additional state of the environment monitoring charges

Greater Wellington may apply an additional SOE monitoring charge. This will occur in instances where due to the nature and scale of the activity, the formulas set in the Schedules to this Policy are not adequate to recover the reasonable costs related to our SOE monitoring programme. Any additional charges will need to satisfy the principles of reasonableness and fairness in sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this Policy. Any additional charge is levied under section 36(5) of the Resource Management Act. Section 36(7) provides for any additional charge to be open to objection and appeal.

4.6 Other matters relating to consent monitoring charges

4.6.1 Consent termination

Where a resource consent expires or is surrendered during the course of the year, and the activity to which it relates ceases, then the customer service, compliance, and state of the environment charges apply only to that period of the year (based on complete months) for which the consent was operative. We may not accept a surrender of consent unless any outstanding fees and charges have been paid in full.

4.6.2 Consent expiry and replacement

Where a resource consent expires during the course of the year, but the activity to which the consent relates continues until the consent is replaced, then the consent monitoring charges outlined in this Policy apply.

4.6.3 Consent transfer

Where a resource consent is transferred during the course of the year (eg, when a property with a consent is sold to a new owner), it is the responsibility of the original owner to advise us of the change. *Any apportionment of fees after the charge has been made remains the responsibility of the respective owners.* We may not accept a transfer of consent unless any outstanding fees and charges have been paid in full.

4.6.4 Partial remission of consent monitoring charges for minor activities with community service or good

Greater Wellington recognises that there are some minor activities undertaken by not-for-profit organisations relating to community services that incur consent monitoring charges which can significantly impact the ability for the consent holder to provide this community service or good. If a consent holder can demonstrate that their minor activity is for a community good or service, and it is primarily operated through sourcing public funding (eg, charitable grants or donations), they can apply for a remission of up to 50% of their consent monitoring charge. Greater Wellington at its discretion will consider each request on a case by case basis.

5. Permitted activity monitoring charges

5.1 Introduction

This section of the Policy sets the charges which Greater Wellington levies in relation to permitted activities. Under section s36(1)(ae) and s36(1)(cc) two types of permitted activities can be charged:

3. Deemed permitted activity under section 87BB of the Resource Management Act
4. Any specified permitted activities in a National Environmental Standard (NES).

At the time of writing this Policy, the NES for Plantation Forestry and NES for Freshwater have specified permitted activities where charges can apply.

5.2 The permitted activity monitoring charge

The charge-out rate for permitted activity monitoring is **\$150⁵ per hour** (excl. GST). All permitted activity monitoring charges are **variable charges**. All variable charges are based on actual and reasonable costs incurred for monitoring the permitted activity.

Where Greater Wellington uses an external consultant, the actual and reasonable costs of consultant services are passed on to the person/organisation undertaking the activity. A **customer service charge** and **state of the environment monitoring charge** do not apply to any permitted activity monitoring.

5.2.1 Deemed permitted activities

Most deemed permitted activities will not be monitored and therefore monitoring charges will not apply except under special circumstances.

5.2.2 NES for Plantation Forestry

Under Part 3 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017, the only activities where permitted monitoring charges are applicable are earthworks (regulation 24), river crossings (regulation 37), forestry quarrying (regulation 51), and harvesting (regulation 63(2)).

5.2.3 NES for Freshwater

Under Part 4 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020, the costs of monitoring the permitted activities identified in the NES may be charged to the person/organisation undertaking the activity.

⁵ The charge out rate for permitted activity monitoring may alter following annual reviews as identified in section 1 of the Policy.

6. Building Act charges

6.1 Introduction

Prior to 2004, territorial local authorities (ie, city and district Councils) were responsible for dams. The Building Act altered the regime by which territorial authorities handled matters pertaining to dams. The Building Act referred matters pertaining to dams to regional councils.

In July 2008, Greater Wellington transferred various Building Act 2004 functions relating to dams to Waikato Regional Council. The Building Consent Authority functions transferred relate to the assessment, processing, inspection and granting of building consents, and certificates of compliance.

Section 243 of the Building Act allows Greater Wellington to retain some functions such as the processing and issuing of a project information memorandum, certificates of acceptance, building warrant of fitness' and the dam safety requirements. The Building Act allows Greater Wellington to impose fees or charges for performing these functions.

6.2 Schedule of charges

The fees and charges for various activities for administering the Building Act are outlined in Table 6.1 below:

Table 6.1: Building Act 2004 fees and charges (all figures exclude GST)

Function	Deposit
Project Information Memorandum (PIM)	Large Dam (above \$100,000 value) \$1,000 Medium Dam (\$20,000 to \$100,000 Value) \$750 Small Dam (\$0 to \$20,000 value) \$500
Building consent application (lodged directly with WRC)	Large Dam (above \$100,000 value) \$4,000 Medium Dam (\$20,000 to \$100,000 Value) \$2,000 Small Dam (\$0 to \$20,000 value) \$1000
Amendment to compliance schedule	\$1,000
Certificate of Acceptance	Large Dam (above \$100,000 value) \$4,000 Medium Dam (\$20,000 to \$100,000 value) \$2,000 Small Dam (\$0 to \$20,000 value) \$500

The staff charge out rate at the time of writing this Policy are outline in Table 6.2 below:

Table 6.2: Building Act 2004 fees and charges (all figures exclude GST)

Work type	Hourly rate (excl. GST)
Resource Use Directorate Managers	\$185/hour
Building Act Officer	\$160/hour

Key notes:

1. The charges associated with building consent applications are those that are directly applied by Waikato Regional Council as these functions have been transferred to Waikato Regional Council. It is therefore advised to contact Waikato Regional Council (www.waikatoregion.govt.nz) to check building consent application charges and charge-out rates.

2. Building consents incur BRANZ and Department of Building and Housing levies. The levies are payable to Waikato Regional Council.

The costs for processing various applications under the Building Act vary greatly due to the scale, complexity, and specialist design features associated with each project. Hence the charges listed in Table 6.1 are considered deposits only and in most circumstances additional charges will apply at the charge out rates specified.

Where a service is provided in relation to Building Act is not covered by Table 6.1, actual and reasonable costs will be recovered in line with the appropriate charge out rates identified in Table 6.2 and Table 1.1.

7. The provision of information

7.1 Information provided under the Resource Management Act 1991

Greater Wellington may charge for the provision of information in relation to resource consents and regional plans and policies (see Resource Management Act sections 36(1)(e) and (f)).

We recognise that we hold a significant amount of information in relation to resource consents and regional plans and policies. Our aim is to assist you to have access to the information you need to make effective use of your resource consent. To this end, we provide a reasonable amount of information free of charge, as listed below. If more time is spent, or more printing required than is allowed for here, the provision of information may be subject to the following charges.

Any charge for information is made in accordance with the following:

1. **Staff time** spent in making information available, or in providing technical advice is charged after the first half hour (except in relation to applications for resource consents) at the following rates:

Hourly charge out rate	Excl. GST
Resource management services from our Environmental Regulation (Technical Support) staff	\$130.00
Resource management services from our Environmental Regulation (Consents & Compliance) staff	\$150.00
Technical or science expert services from our Knowledge & Insights staff	\$170.00

Note: Charge out rates may alter following annual reviews as identified in section 1 of the Policy.

2. **Printing** charges are 20 cents per A4 page after the first 10 pages
3. **All other disbursements** are charged at cost. We may pass on charges to the person requesting the information where the information held by us is subject to agreements with commercial data suppliers who may require us to levy charges.

7.2 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Information provided in response to requests under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) may be charged for under section 13(1A) of the Act. We follow the Ministry of Justice Guidelines for charging, therefore Greater Wellington's costs for responding to information requests will be charged in the following way (GST inclusive):

- The first hour of time spent searching, abstracting, collating, copying, transcribing and supervising access should be free

- \$38 may be charged for each subsequent half hour (or part of this time), irrespective of the seniority of the staff member (unless specialists are required)
- 20c per A4 sized page may be charged after the first 20 pages

The actual costs may be recovered for the:

- Provision of documents on devices
- Retrieval of information off-site
- Reproduction of film, video or audio recording
- Provision of maps, plans or other documents larger than A4 size.

8. Environmental incident inspection charges

8.1 Circumstances in which a charge may apply

Where a person (or persons) or organisation does not hold a resource consent and carries out an activity in a manner which does not comply with the provisions of Resource Management Act sections 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 315, 323, 327, or 329, Greater Wellington will charge that person or organisation for the cost of any inspection it undertakes in relation to that activity. This cost may include:

1. Time spent by Greater Wellington officers identifying and confirming that the activity is taking place or has taken place
2. Time spent by Greater Wellington officers identifying and confirming the person or organisation responsible for causing or allowing the activity to take place or to have taken place
3. Time spent by Greater Wellington officers alerting and informing the person or organisation responsible of their responsibilities in relation to the activity, including any suggestions or advice relating to how any adverse effects might be managed
4. Staff travel time
5. Costs of disbursements (such as laboratory analysis costs, expert or professional services, clean-up costs and materials).

Greater Wellington will only charge for time spent which exceeds 30 minutes. Travel time will be included in the calculation of this time.

A minimum standard charge of \$300 (2 hours staff time) will apply to all environmental incidents which do not comply with provisions of Resource Management Act sections 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 315, 323, 327, or 329. This covers minimum costs associated with travel time, inspection time, identifying parties, initiating follow up action and advice eg, issuing advisory notice, advice letter, or warning letter. In many instances there may be actual and reasonable costs greater than the minimum standard charge and will therefore be invoiced accordingly at the charge out rates identified in the Table 8.1 below.

Table 8.1: Staff charge out rates Hourly charge out rate	Excl. GST
Compliance monitoring and enforcement services	\$150.00
Technical or science services used to determine a breach of the Resource Management Act	\$170.00

Note: Charge out rates may alter following annual reviews as identified in section 1 of the Policy.

8.2 Charges applicable to consented activities

Where an environmental incident occurs on a site that holds a resource consent and a breach of consent conditions is confirmed, then section 8.1 does not apply. Any actual and reasonable costs incurred in investigating the incident will be recovered as variable compliance monitoring charges in accordance with section 4.4.3 of this Policy.

8.3 Authority to charge

These charges are made under section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002.

8.4 Relationship of charges to infringement offences

Where we use the Resource Management (Infringement Offices) Regulations 1999 for environmental incidents, no charge will be made for preparation of documents relating to the issue of the infringement notice.

8.5 Relationship of charges to enforcement orders and abatement notices

Greater Wellington may also seek reimbursement for any actual and reasonable costs it incurs in inspecting an activity to determine compliance with an enforcement order or abatement notice under sections 315 and 323 of the Resource Management Act.

A minimum standard charge of \$300 will apply for any follow up visit to confirm that full compliance with any abatement notice (or enforcement order) has been achieved. This charge covers minimum time associated with travel time, inspection time, and the provision of follow up advice. In many instances there may be actual and reasonable costs greater than the minimum standard charge and will therefore be invoiced accordingly at the charge out rates identified in the Table 8.1.

8.6 Relationship of charges to the Maritime Transport Act 1994

These charges do not apply to marine oil pollution incidents. These are provided for under the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

9. Payment of charges

9.1 Date charges become operative

This Policy applies from 1 July 2024 and will continue in effect until amended or replaced under section 36(3) of the Resource Management Act. The Policy covers the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027 or when a replacement Policy comes into force after this date.

9.2 When charges are due or invoiced

Payment of all invoices except initial fixed application fees for are due within 28 days.

9.2.1 Consent application charges

Initial fixed application fees must be paid in full before Greater Wellington will begin processing resource consent applications. Additional charges for processing resource consents are invoiced on completion of processing of your consent, or when the amount owing exceeds \$2,000. This means that for notified consents particularly, we will invoice at regular intervals during the processing of your consent.

9.2.2 Consent monitoring charges

Consent monitoring charges are invoiced in accordance with our Strategic Compliance Monitoring Programme timetable. Various compliance activities are invoiced during the months identified below:

Month	Activity
July	Air discharges Earthworks & Forestry
October	Wineries & Onsite wastewater Water takes
January	Agricultural effluent Municipal water supplies & wastewater Stream works Coastal
April	Landfills/cleanfills Other discharges Stormwater

If variable compliance monitoring charges exceed \$2,000 during a financial year, consents will be identified for regular checks and an invoice(s) will be issued either monthly, quarterly, or at another frequency.

9.3 Remission of charges

We may remit any charge referred to in this Policy, in part or in full, on a case by case basis, and solely at our discretion (see section 36AAB(1) of the Resource Management Act).

9.4 Credit

Credit is not generally available for application charges or consent monitoring charges in this Policy. We will consider staged payments in exceptional circumstances. In some circumstances, we may require full payment of the estimated cost of processing an application prior to initiating work.

9.5 Debtors and unpaid charges

Under this Policy, debtors and unpaid charges are treated like any other outstanding amount owed to Greater Wellington. An outstanding debt will be pursued according to Greater Wellington's procedures which are summarised below:

- Reminders are sent by Greater Wellington Finance staff between 1–3 months after the charge has been processed and sent to you.
- If charges are not paid within three months of being invoiced to you, a final reminder letter is issued by Finance staff. This letter gives a final deadline to pay any unpaid charges.

If charges remain unpaid and unresolved after the final deadline, Greater Wellington will place the account in the hands of a collection agency and reserves the right to recover actual and reasonable costs for recovering the unpaid charges. This is through the combination of a minimum fixed charge of \$260 (excl. GST) and any additional actual and reasonable costs for staff time charged at \$130/hour (excl. GST)

9.6 Charges required to be paid

All **application charges** for resource consents or for Plan or Policy Statement changes shall be paid according to the provisions of sections 3 and 9 of this Policy.

All **consent monitoring charges** for customer services, compliance monitoring, and state of the environment monitoring shall be paid according to the provisions of sections 4 and 9 of this Policy and the relevant sections in Part 2 of the Policy.

All **permitted activity charges** for shall be paid according to the provisions of sections 5 and 9 of this Policy and the relevant sections in Part 2 of the Policy.

All **Building Act charges** shall be paid according to the provisions of sections 6 and 9 of this Policy.

All **provision of information charges** shall be paid according to the provisions of sections 7 and 9 of this Policy.

All **environmental incidents charges** not related to resource consents shall be paid according to the provisions of sections 8 and 9 of this Policy.

Part 2: Compliance and SOE monitoring charges

A. Compliance monitoring charges

A.1 Fixed charges

Fixed charges are applied to compliance activities where there are a significant number of consents monitored with standard conditions. The compliance activities subject to fixed charges are outline in Table A1 below:

Table A1: Fixed charges (all figures exclude GST)

Compliance activity	Fixed charge		
	Cost	Notes	Code
Agricultural Effluent, Onsite Wastewater & Wineries	\$300	Inspection	DL2
	\$75	Audit only	DL3
Takes	\$225	Audit – verification, data check	WT2
	\$300	Audit – verification, low flows, telemetry	WT3
	\$150	Audit – data check	WT4
	\$225	Audit – data check, low flows	WT5

There will be some circumstances (e.g. when non-compliance occurs or where there are non-standard conditions) where the above fixed charges do not cover the actual and reasonable cost for monitoring the consent. In these circumstances a variable charge (see below) will also apply.

All fixed charges are invoiced annually, at a time based on our Strategic Compliance monitoring programme (see part 1 section 9.2.2 of this Policy). Depending on your compliance assessment, the category of your charge may change from year to year.

A.2 Variable charges

Variable charges are applied to all other compliance activities and also compliance activities with fixed charges that are either not sufficient or not applicable. The compliance activities subject to variable charges are outlined in Table A2 below:

Table A2: Variable charges

Compliance activity	Variable charge
Agricultural Effluent	Any non-complying or non-standard consents
Air Discharges	All consents
Coastal	All consents
Earthworks	All consents
Forestry	All consents
Landfills & Cleanfills	All consents
Major Projects & Global Consents	All consents
Onsite Wastewater & Wineries	Any non-complying or non-standard consents
Other Discharges	All consents
Stormwater	All consents
Streamworks	All consents
TA Water Supply	All consents
TA Wastewater	All consents
Takes - Telemetry	Any non-complying or non-standard consents
Takes – Other & Bores	Any non-complying or non-standard consents

Most variable charges are invoiced annually, at a time based on our Strategic Compliance monitoring programme (see part 1 section 9.2.2 of this Policy). They are based on actual and reasonable amount of time spent monitoring your consent since your last invoice. There are some instances where more regular invoicing of your variable charges may apply. This is normally for large projects where significant monitoring occurs on a regular basis.

B. State of the Environment (SOE) monitoring charges

The fixed SOE monitoring charges for each consent type are presented in section B.1 – B.5.

Further detail on the cost of the SOE monitoring programme is provided in Appendix A.

All **land use consents, water permits to dam/divert water, and coastal permits (excluding discharges)** with ongoing effects on the environment will receive an annual SOE monitoring charge as outlined in Table B.1 except for land use consents relating to earthworks, operational stormwater, and forestry which are covered in section B.3 of this Policy. (Note: This does not apply to one-off construction related activities.)

Special SOE monitoring charges apply to the activities shown in Table B.1. These charges are made as the nature and scale of these activities are not fairly reflected in the fixed charges specified in section B.1 – B.5:

Table B.1: SOE monitoring charges for land use consents and other specified activities

Consent type	Activity	Fixed charge
Land use	Any activity with ongoing effects on the environment (Charge category 1.1)	\$165
Consent holder	Activity	Fixed charge
Greater Wellington, Delivery	River works maintenance for all schemes in the region	\$66,000
Wellington Water Ltd	Water take from the Hutt Aquifer	\$85,000
NZTA, Transmission Gully	All works associated with the construction of Transmission Gully	\$88,000
NZTA, Peka Peka to Ōtaki	All works associated with the construction of Peka Peka to Ōtaki	\$29,000

B.1 Surface water takes

The SOE monitoring charge for this consent type is levied on all surface water and groundwater take consents ('Category A' and 'Category B' where there is a stream depletion effect managed by a minimum flow).

The charge is dependent on:

- The level of stress (based on a low, medium, or high level of allocation) created by water takes in a primary surface water management zone when assessing allocation under the Natural Resources Plan (NRP)
- The size of water take based on the maximum instantaneous rate of take in litres/second (for surface water takes from catchments) or average instantaneous rate of take in litres/second from total weekly allocation (for groundwater takes from 'Category A and B' groundwater management zones).

Category 1 – LOW level of allocation (<50% of NRP allocation limit)		
<u>Surface water management zones in NRP</u>		
Kāpiti Streams	Wairarapa coast	All other catchments not specifically identified in Cat. 2 or 3
Huangarua	Waitohu	
Te Awarua o Porirua	Wellington City catchments	
<u>Connected 'Category A and B' groundwater management zones in NRP</u>		
Ōtaki	Te Horo	Huangarua
Raumati	Waikanae	
Rate of take	Fixed charge	Charge category
0–9.99 litres/sec	\$140	2.3.1.1
10–19.99 litres/sec	\$235	2.3.2.1
20–29.99 litres/sec	\$470	2.3.3.1
30–39.99 litres/sec	\$705	2.3.4.1
40–59.99 litres/sec	\$940	2.3.5.1
60–99.99 litres/sec	\$1820	2.3.6.1
100–299.99 litres/sec	\$2820	2.3.7.1
300 + litres/sec	\$4700	2.3.8.1

Category 2 – MEDIUM level of allocation (50%-80% of NRP allocation limit)		
<u>Surface water management zones in NRP</u>		
Tauherenikau	Ruamahānga (upper)	Waipoua
Ōtaki	Waiohine	
<u>Connected 'Category A and B' groundwater management zones in NRP</u>		
Ōtaki	Te Horo	Upper Ruamahānga
Tauherenikau	Te Ore Ore	Waiohine
Waingawa		

Rate of take	Fixed charge	Charge category
0–9.99 litres/sec	\$235	2.3.1.2
10–19.99 litres/sec	\$470	2.3.2.2
20–29.99 litres/sec	\$940	2.3.3.2
30–39.99 litres/sec	\$1,410	2.3.4.2
40–59.99 litres/sec	\$1,820	2.3.5.2
60–99.99 litres/sec	\$2,820	2.3.6.2
100–299.99 litres/sec	\$3,500	2.3.7.2
300 + litres/sec	\$7,000	2.3.8.2

Category 3 – HIGH level of allocation (>80% of NRP allocation limit)		
<u>Surface water management zones in NRP</u>		
Booths	Ōrongorongo	Ruamāhanga (other)
Hutt (upper & lower)	Otakura	Waikanae
Kopuaranga	Papawai	Wainuiomata (upper & lower)
Lake Wairarapa	Parkvale	Waingawa
Mangaone	Ruamāhanga (lower)	Whangaehu
Mangatarere	Ruamāhanga (middle)	
<u>Connected 'Category A and B' groundwater management zones in NRP</u>		
Dry River	Mangatarere	Tauherenikau
Lake	Middle Ruamahanga	Upper Hutt
Lower Hutt	Moiki	Upper Ruamāhanga
Lower Ruamāhanga	Ōnoke	Waikanae
Parkvale	Taratahi	Waingawa
		Waiohine
Rate of take	Fixed charge	Charge category
0–9.99 litres/sec	\$470	2.3.1.3
10–19.99 litres/sec	\$1,170	2.3.2.3
20–29.99 litres/sec	\$1,650	2.3.3.3
30–39.99 litres/sec	\$2,350	2.3.4.3
40–59.99 litres/sec	\$3,060	2.3.5.3
60–99.99 litres/sec	\$4,700	2.3.6.3
100–299.99 litres/sec	\$7,000	2.3.7.3
300 + litres/sec	\$19,500	2.3.8.3

Table notes:

Surface water takes from catchments – size of take based on maximum instantaneous rate in litres/second.

Groundwater takes from connected 'Category A and B' groundwater management zones – size of take based on average instantaneous rate in litres/second from total weekly allocation.

Reduction for water storage or frost protection

For surface water takes where consent holders take water from supplementary allocation for water storage or for frost protection purposes, the applicable SOE monitoring charge may be reduced at the discretion of Greater Wellington. This is because these activities often abstract large volumes of water for only short periods during the year, often at times where water resources are less stressed (ie, at higher river/stream flows or during spring months when river/stream flows are on average greater).

B.2 Groundwater takes

The SOE monitoring charge for this consent type is levied on all groundwater take consents (excluding 'Category A and B' groundwater takes assessed under B.1). The charge is dependent on:

- The level of stress (based on a low, medium, or high level of allocation) created by water takes in a groundwater management zone when assessing allocation under the Natural Resources Plan (NRP)
- The size of groundwater take which is based on the annual volume of water taken (in m³).

Category 1 – LOW level of allocation (<50% of NRP allocation limit)		
Groundwater management zones in NRP		
Taratahi	Upper Ruamahānga	All other groundwater zones not specifically identified
Te Horo	Waitohu	
Upper Hutt		
<i>Rate of take</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Charge category</i>
0–99,999 m ³ /year	\$100	3.3.1.1
100,000–199,999 m ³ /year	\$200	3.3.2.1
200,000–299,999 m ³ /year	\$290	3.3.3.1
300,000–399,999 m ³ /year	\$400	3.3.4.1
400,000–599,999 m ³ /year	\$990	3.3.5.1
600,000–999,999 m ³ /year	\$1,300	3.3.6.1
1,000,000 + m ³ /year	\$1,950	3.3.7.1

Category 2 – MEDIUM level of allocation (50% – 80% of NRP allocation limit)		
Groundwater management zones in NRP		
Ruamāhanga (other)	Waingawa	
<i>Rate of take</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Charge category</i>
0–99,999 m ³ /year	\$200	3.3.1.2
100,000–199,999 m ³ /year	\$290	3.3.2.2
200,000–299,999 m ³ /year	\$400	3.3.3.2
300,000–399,999 m ³ /year	\$650	3.3.4.2
400,000–599,999 m ³ /year	\$1,300	3.3.5.2
600,000–999,999 m ³ /year	\$1,650	3.3.6.2
1,000,000 + m ³ /year	\$3,300	3.3.7.2

Category 3 – HIGH level of allocation (>80% of NRP allocation limit)		
<u>Groundwater management zones in NRP</u>		
Dry River	Lower Ruamāhanga	Raumati
Fernhill Tiffen	Mangatarere	Tauherenikau
Huangarua	Martinborough	Te Ore Ore
Lake	Ōnoke	Waikanae
Lower Hutt	Parkvale (confined/ & unconfined)	
Rate of take	Fixed charge	Charge category
0–99,999 m ³ /year	\$390	3.3.1.3
100,000–199,999 m ³ /year	\$490	3.3.2.3
200,000–299,999 m ³ /year	\$650	3.3.3.3
300,000–399,999 m ³ /year	\$990	3.3.4.3
400,000–599,999 m ³ /year	\$1,650	3.3.5.3
600,000–999,999 m ³ /year	\$5,000	3.3.6.3
1,000,000 + m ³ /year	\$8,250	3.3.7.3

Table notes:

Groundwater takes from Category A and B (where there is a stream depletion effect managed by a minimum flow) groundwater management zones are covered in section B.1 of this Policy.

B.3 Discharges to water and land

The SOE monitoring charge for this consent type is levied on all discharge to water consents (to freshwater and coastal water), as all discharges are considered to cause additional stress on waterways and the coastal environment, whereby the consent holder should pay for a proportion of SOE monitoring costs. *It also covers discharge to land and land use consents for earthworks, operational stormwater, and forestry as these activities commonly authorise the discharge of contaminants to land that may enter water.*

The SOE monitoring charge is dependent on the type of discharge to water and the level of contaminants (both quality and quantity) discharged into the receiving environment. The level of contaminants discharged is split into three categories – high, medium, and low. Below each table are guidance notes for each activity, however, discretion will be applied if the guidance notes are not applicable/suitable in special circumstances.

Note relating to earthworks, forestry, and stormwater: SOE monitoring charges for earthworks and forestry activities are only applicable if works are undertaken during the year in which consent monitoring charges apply.

<i>Nature of contaminants discharged – HIGH</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Charge category</i>
Human wastewater	\$15,000	4.3.1.1
Forestry	\$1,200	4.3.2.1
Earthworks (large)	\$4,000	4.3.3.1A
Earthworks (standard)	\$1,200	4.3.3.1
Stormwater	\$4,000	4.3.4.1
Landfill leachate	\$2,650	4.3.5.1
Other discharges	\$2,650	4.3.6.1

Table notes:

Human wastewater – any wastewater treatment plant servicing a population of more than 1000 people

Forestry – any forestry related consents issued within a red zone greater than 50 ha

Earthworks (large) – any large development/activity that poses significant risk of discharge to its receiving environment. As a guide this can include any site greater than 5ha and/or has steep slopes where erosion and sediment controls need to be actively managed.

Earthworks (standard) – any area greater than 0.3ha where treatment devices are required (e.g. decanting earth bunds and/or sediment retention ponds) and/or where there is a high degree of risk associated with the activity (e.g. sensitive receiving environment, non-compliance issues)

Stormwater – any global operational stormwater discharge consents

Landfill leachate - any open landfill servicing a population of more than 1000 people

Other discharge – will be assessed on a case by case basis

<i>Nature of contaminants discharged – MEDIUM</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Charge category</i>
Human wastewater	\$7,000	4.3.1.2
Forestry	\$1,000	4.3.2.2
Earthworks	\$1,000	4.3.3.2
Stormwater	\$1,000	4.3.4.2
Landfill leachate	\$1,760	4.3.5.2
Other discharges	\$1,760	4.3.6.2

Table notes:

Human wastewater – any wastewater treatment plant servicing a population of less than 1000 people but more than 100 people

Forestry – any forestry related consents issued within a red zone less than 50 ha or any orange zone

Earthworks – any area greater than 0.3ha where only control devices (i.e. no treatment) is required (e.g. silt fences and/or clean water diversions)

Stormwater – any operational stormwater discharge from a site greater than 0.3 hectares where the majority of the development is greenfield development

Landfill leachate - any open landfill servicing a population of less than 1000 people and any closed landfill servicing a population of more than 1000 people

Other discharge – will be assessed on a case by case basis

<i>Nature of contaminants discharged – LOW</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Charge category</i>
Human wastewater	\$3,500	4.3.1.3
Forestry	\$500	4.3.2.3
Earthworks	\$500	4.3.3.3
Stormwater	\$500	4.3.4.3
Landfill leachate	\$700	4.3.5.3
Other discharges	\$530	4.3.6.3

Table notes:

Human wastewater – any wastewater treatment plant servicing a population of less than 100 people

Forestry – any forestry related consents issued within a green/yellow zone

Earthworks – any area less than 0.3ha

Stormwater – any operational stormwater discharge from a site less than 0.3 hectares where the majority of the development is greenfield development and a brownfield development site of any size

Landfill leachate - any closed landfill servicing a population of less than 1000 people

Other discharge – will be assessed on a case by case basis

Where there are two or more discharge to water consents relating to the same activity, only one SOE monitoring charge applies.

B.4 Discharges to land

The SOE monitoring charge for this consent type is levied on all discharge to land consents. The charge is dependent on:

- The quality of groundwater in the area where your discharge to land activity occurs, and
- The nature of contaminants discharged to land.

The tables below lists three categories of areas in the region in terms of the level of groundwater quality based on nitrate-nitrogen state and trends from Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA (www.lawa.org.nz)).

Note relating to industrial discharges: This is a new category. Existing industrial discharges have been previously categorised across varying activities. This new categorised makes it clearer as to the appropriate level of SOE monitoring charges for industrial discharges

Category 1 – LOW level of groundwater quality stress:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any groundwater zone with a nitrogen-nitrate state less than 1 mg/L N and a trend that is not degrading • Any land area not covered by a groundwater zone 		
Hutt Lake Ōnoke	Middle Ruamāhanga Parkvale	Raumati Waiohine
<i>Nature of contaminants discharged</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Charge category</i>
Municipal wastewater	\$1,470	5.3.1.1
Onsite wastewater / wineries	\$220	5.3.2.1
Agricultural	\$590	5.3.3.1
Landfill leachate	\$590	5.3.4.1
Industrial	\$590	5.3.5.1
Other discharges	\$220	5.3.6.1

Category 2 – MEDIUM level of groundwater quality stress		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any groundwater zone with a nitrogen-nitrate state or less than 1 mg/L N and a trend that is degrading • Any groundwater zone with a nitrogen-nitrate states of between 1-5 mg/L N and a trend that is not degrading 		
Fernhill Tiffen Huangarua Martinborough	Moiki Upper Hutt	Waikanae Waingawa

<i>Nature of contaminants discharged</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Charge category</i>
Municipal wastewater	\$2,230	5.3.1.2
Onsite wastewater / wineries	\$290	5.3.2.2
Agricultural	\$740	5.3.3.2
Landfill leachate	\$740	5.3.4.2
Industrial	\$740	5.3.5.2
Other discharges	\$290	5.3.6.2

Category 3 – HIGH level of groundwater quality stress		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any groundwater zone with a nitrogen-nitrate state or more than 1 mg/L N and a trend that is degrading 		
Mangatarere	Tauherenikau	Te Horo
Otaki	Te Ore Ore	Upper Ruamahanga
Taratahi		
<i>Nature of contaminants discharged</i>	<i>Fixed charge</i>	<i>Charge category</i>
Municipal wastewater	\$2,940	5.3.1.3
Onsite wastewater / wineries	\$375	5.3.2.3
Agricultural	\$895	5.3.3.3
Landfill leachate	\$895	5.3.4.3
Industrial	\$895	5.3.5.3
Other discharges	\$375	5.3.6.3

Notes:

- Any earthworks, forestry, and operational stormwater discharges to land are covered in section B.3 of this Policy
- Where there are two or more discharge to land consents relating to the same activity, only one SOE monitoring charge applies. For example a municipal wastewater discharge may have one consent to discharge contaminants from the base of oxidation ponds, and another consent to discharge contaminants to land via irrigation. In such circumstances only one SOE monitoring charge will be applied.
- Where there is an associated discharge to water consent for exactly the same activity, no SOE monitoring charge applies. The SOE monitoring charge is applied to the discharge to water consent.

B.5 Discharges to air

The SOE monitoring charge for this consent type is levied on all discharge to air consents. Air discharges are assigned one of the four categories as shown in the table below.

Nature of contaminants discharged	Fixed charge	Charge category
Cleanfill, refuse transfer stations, and composting discharges in non-sensitive receiving environments; small community wastewater discharges; abrasive blasting; natural gas fired boiler/generator discharges, green house gas emissions	140	6.2.1
Cleanfill, refuse transfer stations, and composting discharges in sensitive receiving environments; medium/large community wastewater discharges; small scale industrial discharges; landfill discharges with minor environmental effects; crematoria discharges; odour discharges in non-sensitive receiving environments	\$425	6.2.2
Medium scale industrial discharges; all other landfill discharges; odour discharges in sensitive receiving environments	\$2,050	6.2.3
Large scale industrial discharges; significant odour discharges	\$5,650	6.2.4

Where there are two or more discharge to air consents relating to the same activity, only one SOE monitoring charge applies.

In instances where a discharge to air activity does not fit in any of the types of discharge listed above, Greater Wellington will exercise its discretion as to which SOE category applies based on the nature and scale of contaminants discharged.

Appendix 1 – SOE monitoring charges

Our Knowledge & Insights team undertake state of the environment (SOE) monitoring within the Wellington region. Greater Wellington’s Revenue and Financing Policy Greater Wellington requires a total user charge recovery of between 10%-20%. This Policy aims to recover 13.5%.

There are different levels of SOE monitoring undertaken within programme budgets. Hence there are different user charge recovery totals from each programme budget as outline in Table A below:

Table A: Programmes with SOE monitoring and assessed consent holder costs

	Total programme budget	User charge recovery	Consent holder cost
Air Quality	\$762,890	7.5%	\$57,217
Climate & Hydrology	\$4,256,009	17.5%	\$744,802
Land Ecosystems	\$3,032,293	5%	\$151,615
Water Quality & Ecology	\$5,008,771	20%	\$1,001,754
Decision Intelligence	\$3,230,251	7.5%	\$242,269
TOTAL	\$16,290,214		\$2,197,656 (13.5%)

An explanation of the work connected to SOE monitoring that is undertaken within each of the above programmes is provided below:

Air Quality – Monitors and tracks trends in air quality and urban emissions between different areas and over time. This includes assessing airshed compliance with national standards and guidelines designed to protect human health and the environment.

Climate & Hydrology – Meteorological and hydrologic monitoring including river levels and flows, groundwater levels, rainfall, soil moisture, temperature, seasonal and annual climate summaries.

Land Ecosystems – Terrestrial monitoring including wetland health, vegetation surveys, forest and duneland health, species specific monitoring.

Water Quality & Ecology – Monitoring of water quality and ecology across rivers, lakes, groundwater, and coastal domains. Including recreational water quality monitoring, didymo surveillance monitoring, threatened species and target attributes.

Decision Intelligence – Data management, analysis, evaluation, and the provision of insights for decision-making and reporting. This includes data management for the above programmes, contaminated land, and the telemetering of water takes.

The type of resource consent connected to each of the programmes has been assessed in Table B below. This determines the amount to be recovered from various consent types.

Table B: SOE monitoring programmes connected to consent types

	Air Quality	Climate & Hydrology	Land Ecosystems	Water Quality & Ecology	Decision Intelligence	TOTAL
Land use consents	0%	0%	5%	5%	5%	\$69,782
	\$0	\$0	\$7,581	\$50,088	\$12,113	
Surface water takes	0%	60%	0%	15%	25%	\$657,711
	\$0	\$446,881	\$0	\$150,263	\$60,567	
Groundwater takes	0%	30%	10%	5%	20%	\$337,143
	\$0	\$223,440	\$15,161	\$50,088	\$48,454	
Discharge to water/land	0%	5%	60%	60%	25%	\$789,829
	\$0	\$37,240	\$90,969	\$601,053	\$60,567	
Discharge to land	0%	5%	25%	15%	15%	\$261,747
	\$0	\$37,240	\$37,904	\$150,263	\$36,340	
Air discharges	100%	0%	0%	0%	10%	\$81,444
	\$57,217	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,227	
TOTAL (13.5%)						\$2,197,656

The charges identified Part 2B of the Policy have been determined to ensure that based on current consent numbers (at the time of writing the Policy) that the amount recovered approximates the total user charge recovery of \$2.2 million and the user charge recovery for various consent types.

For more information, please contact Greater Wellington:

Wellington office

PO Box 11646
Manners St
Wellington 6142
T 04 384 5708
F 04 385 6960

Masterton office

PO Box 41
Masterton 5840
T 06 378 2484
F 06 378 2146

www.gw.govt.nz
info@gw.govt.nz

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