

Regulatory Fees and Charges

Purpose

1. To outline proposed changes to regulatory fees and charges, which are beyond the annual inflation adjustment for the financial year 2018/2019.

Summary

2. The council proposes a change to the current regulatory fees by introducing new fees relating to Deemed Permitted Boundary Activity Notices issued under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), and Plantation Forestry permitted activity monitoring under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 (NES).

Permitted Boundary Activity

3. Deemed Permitted Boundary Activities are new to the RMA. They allow an activity defined as a boundary activity, that would normally require a resource consent, to be deemed to be permitted if relevant affected neighbours give their written application type, resulting from recent changes to Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991. It allows fast tracking approval, and the council can issue a notice to that effect. Staff propose to require a deposit of \$400 and charge hourly rates based on the work completed. Further billing/refund will be issued accordingly.

Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017

4. The NES will come into force in May 2018. It provides that a number of activities relating to plantation forestry are permitted activities under the RMA, subject to a requirement that the council is given notice that they are going to occur. The charges will cover the council's costs associated with monitoring of permitted Plantation Forestry activities being undertaken and the assessment of management plans. Staff propose to require a deposit of \$400 and charge hourly rates based on the work completed. Further billing/refund will be issued accordingly.
5. The current hourly rates are outlined below. These will be adjusted for inflation from 1 July 2019.

Staff position	Approved hourly rate for 2017/2018 (incl. GST)
Administration (all areas)	\$105
Building, compliance, monitoring, incident investigator, environmental health officer, licensing, other (excluding senior)	\$159
Planner, engineer, subdivision advisor, specialist, urban design, other (excluding senior)	\$159
Senior processing/inspection, senior specialist, principal, Intermediate, team leader (all areas)	\$189
Manager/project manager/legal services (all areas)	\$198

Background

6. Recent amendments to the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 have introduced a new fast track application process for the issue of Deemed Permitted Boundary Activity Notices for which a fee is able to be set minor boundary applications.
7. The new proposed changes to National Environmental Standards (NES) will require the council to monitor permitted Plantation Forestry permitted activity and assess notices including management plans. The NES states that to be assessed and monitored by the council can charge a fee for carrying out those functions.

Options

8. Both are proposed to have a \$400 deposit payable at lodgement of the application. The fee (by way of hourly rate) ensures the council can recover the costs associated with assessing and monitoring the application. If the costs are lower than the deposit then a refund will be payable to the applicant. Likewise, if the charges exceed \$400 then additional charges will be invoiced. We will monitor the actual charges during the implementation to ensure the deposit is an accurate reflection of the overall charges
9. The council is required to issue a Deemed Permitted Boundary Activity Notice if the relevant statutory requirements are met per the amendments to the RMA. The Council is required to undertake monitoring of permitted Plantation Forestry activities and assessment of management plans per the provisions of the RMA and the NES.

Attachments

There are no attachments to this proposal.

Signatories

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Note: There are no options considered as this is a RMA requirement.