

Report 07.325  
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Committee Resource Management Charges Subcommittee  
Authors Richard Waddy, Manager, Environmental Support  
Alistair Cross, Manager, Environmental Regulation

## **Process for considering submissions on the draft Resource Management Charging Policy**

### **1. Purpose**

To summarise the outcomes of the consultation process, clarify any technical issues and recommend any amendments to the draft Resource Management Charging Policy to the Environment Committee.

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

The consultation period on the draft Resource Management Charging Policy ran from 20 April to 21 May 2007. No submissions were received on the proposed changes to the draft Policy.

The review of the draft Resource Management Charging Policy was advertised extensively in the region. A newsletter was sent to all consent holders to advise them of the review and of their right to submit. The daily newspapers carried advertisements advising people of the hearing dates. In addition, copies of the newsletter and the draft Policy were posted on our website.

A news release was prepared which covered both the review of the charging policy and the Council's performance as measured by the three yearly MFE survey. In May, the Petone Herald and the Hutt News (circulation around 42,000) chose to report the item and were the only newspapers to do so.

Subsequent to the newsletter being sent to all consent holders, some major consent holders that will be affected most by the proposed changes were contacted directly e.g. Kapiti Coast District Council and the Council's Water

Supply, Parks & Forests Division. Such consent holders have accepted the proposed changes without raising any issues or concerns.

#### 4. Comment

Since the draft policy was first presented to the Environment Committee the following have been included or changed:

- Colour maps of the areas which attract a “State of the Environment” charge have been embedded into the draft Policy to assist all users to identify catchments and areas, which are subject to these charges, easily.
- The definition of a “stressed” catchment or zone has been defined as one in which the water resource allocation is above a certain point. Where this “trigger level” occurs the consent user attracts a state of the environment charge. The draft Policy identified some new areas which are considered stressed and these areas are clearly marked on the embedded maps.
- A statement about the annual review mechanism for the policy has been added to the policy:

*“We intend to introduce an annual review of our Resource Management Charging Policy and this will ensure any future increases will be gradual. An annual review of the charging policy will be included as part of the annual plan and LTCCP processes and you will be consulted on any proposed change”.*

- Section 3.2.9. This section covers applications for multiple or a suite of consents – e.g. a major notified consent. The draft Policy proposed to charge additional consent application fees to an applicant considered to have a poor credit record. We have deleted any reference covering an applicant’s creditworthiness and the section now reads:

*“3.2.9 Reductions for multiple consent applications*

*Often major projects have a number of resource consents included in one application document. Greater Wellington, in these instances, has a discretion and may request the payment of a single application charge (i.e. \$4,250) instead of requesting for separate payments of \$4,250 for each consent application. Greater Wellington’s decision to waive additional application fees will be based on the likely costs of processing the consent.”*

- Section 2.5 (of Part 2: Schedules) has been expanded to recognise that there may be particular situations where a non-standard charge is appropriate:

*“There may be special circumstances in which a non-standard charge applies. We can advise you when this is likely to occur for your consent”.*

The Resource Management Charges Subcommittee must decide whether it is to recommend to the Environment Committee at their meeting, set down for the 21 June 2007, any further changes to the draft Policy. The final Policy will be adopted by the Council at their meeting, set down for the 28 June 2007,

## **5. Communication**

No communications are necessary at this time.

## **6. Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

- 1. **Receives** the report;*
- 2. **Notes** the contents;*
- 3. **Recommends** to the Environment Committee that the draft Resource Management Charging Policy is accepted in its entirety, subject to the changes noted above in Section 4; and*
- 4. **Notes** that the Resource Management Charging Policy is to be published subject to any minor editorial amendments, which should be approved by the Divisional Manager, Environment Management.*

Report prepared by:

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

**Richard Waddy**  
Manager, Environmental  
Support

**Alistair Cross**  
Manager, Environmental  
Regulation

**Nigel Corry**  
Divisional Manager,  
Environment Management

**Attachment 1:** Resource Management Charging Policy