

Is your resource consent application being notified?

These guidelines provide some of the answers to your questions on resource consent application notification costs.

Is the initial consent fee an indication of the full cost of my consent?

- The initial consent fee is a deposit only to cover basic costs – so there may be additional costs.
- The initial consent fee does not represent the average cost of a notified consent.
- Each application is unique, so it is difficult to predict the total cost for any given application.
- For example, notified consent fees ranged from \$7700 for an application for a car deck to \$49,000 for an application for bus shelters in 2007.
- Of the nine notified consents in 2007 the average total cost for a notified application was \$23,600.

Is there anyway that I can help to manage the costs associated with the notification and hearing of my resource consent application?

- The planner will keep you informed during the process and where possible give you options to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum. An example is that you may be able to provide your own copies of the application to notified parties.
- However, some costs such as advertising fees for public notification or commissioners charges have limited opportunity for flexibility.

How can I keep track of the costs during the consent process?

- It is the Council's practice to send an invoice for additional fees (the costs of the consent exceeding the original deposit), after a decision has been issued and once all the costs have been determined.
- If you wish to receive an update of the costs during the process, contact the planner dealing with your application.

If my consent is fairly straightforward, will I be charged additional fees?

- Sometimes an application may appear quite straightforward, but the complexity of the consent is determined by how many rules, objectives and policies in the District Plan need to be considered. It also depends on whether a hearing is required and how long this process will take.
- This will also determine the number of specialist advisors that are required to advise on the application.
- Sometimes more information is required for the application to be adequately assessed. In this case you will be contacted as soon as possible. This may result in the timeframe of your consent process being extended.

Is time spent on consideration of submissions included in the costs of my consent?

- Submitters are an integral part of a notified consent process.
- Any relevant concerns that are raised by submitters will need to be considered by the planner. This time will be included in the cost of your consent.

What else will I be charged for?

- The planner's time on your consent – including, but not necessarily limited to: site visits, reading information provided, reviewing submissions, writing the report and liaising with peer reviewers and experts.
- The input and time of specialist advisors and peer reviewers.
- The cost of any hearings process – including the fees for commissioners and the hearings advisor, room/venue costs and associated expenses.
- Cost of public notices.
- Cost of photocopying.
- Any other costs or expenses related to your consent application.

Are discounted rates provided in special cases? (ie not-for-profit organisations)

- All applicants are treated the same.
- We do not provide a discounted rate for non-profit organisations or social providers. However, if you feel that your application has some benefit to the community you may wish to apply for a grant before lodging your resource consent application.
- You can find Council grants information on our website www.Wellington.govt.nz or call 499 4444 and ask for the Grants team.

What happens if my consent is declined?

- Whether your consent is approved or declined you will be charged for all actual and reasonable costs associated with the processing and determination of your consent application.
- You may withdraw your application at any time during the process. This must be done in writing. You will be charged for all costs associated with your consent application to this point.

What can I do if I disagree with the fees that have been charged?

- If you have any queries regarding the fees, please contact our customer services team on 801 3590 who can provide you with a breakdown of the costs.
- If you still have concerns relating to the costs, you have the right under the Resource Management Act to object to the additional fees.
- This must be provided in writing within 15 working days from the date that the invoice has been received.

Further Information

If you have any further questions about the notification process or fees under the Resource Management Act please visit www.qualityplanning.org.nz