



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ

Taupō District Council

PROPOSED ANIMAL CONTROL, DOG REGISTRATION AND FOOD LICENSING FEES

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

Introduction

Taupō District Council requires payments for a range of services it provides. These fees are set in different ways depending on the associated legislation. The fees contained in this proposal are set by Council under the Dog Control Act 1996, Food Act 2014, and Local Government Act 2002 respectively.

About the Fees

Animal Control, Dog Registration, and Food Licensing are important Council activities which help ensure our community is kept healthy and safe. This is done by ensuring dogs and other animals can be effectively managed and the places where you go to eat are hygienic and practice good food safety.

As an example, the need for animal control is primarily generated by those who own animals but the community benefits from Council's animal control officers collecting those animals off the street or taking possession of aggressive animals that have attacked people. These activities are split based on the benefits to the community as a whole (rates) and to those who benefit or generate the need for it (fees and charges).

The fee increases in this proposal reflect the increases in operational costs for the associated activities. Fee increases across many Council activities have been minimal in the last few years so as costs have increased, revenue from fees and charges has not increased at the same rate. This means there has been a gradual departure from the revenue and rates splits outlined in Council's revenue and financing policy.

What this means is the community has had to pay for more of the activity rather than the users or those who generate the need for the activity. The proposed fee increases for animal control/dog registration are an important way to address this but won't be enough in the short term. Council will need to look at ways to address this through the Long-term plan.

This statement of proposal has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Council's Proposal

Proposed Animal Control Fees

The proposed fees below represent an average increase of 15% (Note: Due to rounding the percentage changes vary). These increases are required to address the increasing costs of animal control over the last few years and to help move revenue collected from animal control fees back towards the bands set in our revenue and financing policy.

| Fee / charge | 2024/25 (proposed) | 2023/24 (current) | Difference (\$) | (%) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Dog registration fees (in accordance with section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996) | | | | |
| Working dog | \$40.00 | \$34.00 | \$6.00 | 18% |
| Entire dog fee (if paid on or before 31 July) | \$110.00 | \$95.00 | \$15.00 | 16% |
| Entire dog fee (if paid on or after 1 Aug) | \$130.00 | \$114.00 | \$16.00 | 14% |
| Entire dog fee – Responsible Owner | \$80.00 | \$70.00 | \$10.00 | 14% |
| Responsible Owner application fee (payable upon initial application ONLY, unless owner circumstances change) | \$40.00 | \$34.00 | \$6.00 | 18% |
| De-sexed dog discount (off the full-year registration fee; not applicable to working dogs) | \$13.00 | \$11.00 | \$2.00 | 18% |
| Disability assist dog | No Fee | No Fee | | |
| Pet therapy dog (as approved by Council Officers) | No Fee | No Fee | | |
| Dangerous dog (*percentage of applicable Entire Dog Fee; before penalties are applied) | 150%* | 150%* | | |

| Fee / charge | 2024/25 (proposed) | 2023/24 (current) | Difference (\$) | (%) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Replacement tag | \$15.00 | \$12.00 | \$3.00 | 25% |
| Multiple dog application fee for more than two dogs (urban area only) | \$125.00 | \$110.00 | \$15.00 | 14% |
| Dog Impounding fees (in accordance with section 68 of the Dog Control Act 1996) | | | | |
| Dog – If registered and 1st impounding in any 12 months | \$90.00 | \$80.00 | \$10.00 | 13% |
| Dog – If unregistered or 2nd or more impounding in any 12 months | \$180.00 | \$155.00 | \$25.00 | 16% |
| After Hours Impounding Fee (5pm to 8.30am) | \$180.00 | \$155.00 | \$25.00 | 16% |
| Sustenance and Care Fee (per dog per day in Pound) | \$20.00 | \$17.00 | \$3.00 | 18% |
| Microchip Fee per Dog | \$30.00 | \$25.00 | \$5.00 | 20% |
| Sale of Dog to the Public (including microchipping and registration) | \$125.00 plus desexing cost | \$110.00 plus desexing cost | \$15.00 | 14% |
| Sale of Dog to Rescue Agencies | \$45.00 | \$39.00 | \$6.00 | 15% |
| Other animal fees (in accordance with section 14 of the Impounding Act 1955) | | | | |
| Impounding Fee | \$90.00 | \$80.00 | \$10.00 | 13% |
| Sustenance (per animal per day) | \$20.00 | \$17.00 | \$3.00 | 18% |

Proposed Food Licensing Fees

The proposed fees below represent the cost increases of running this Council activity, but they also represent the fact that Council has been undercharging for officers' time in the food licensing space. While there are benefits to community health the cost of this activity needs to be fairly split between the community and places handling food. This is why Council is also proposing the introduction of some new fees for previously unbilled officer time.

New fees are highlighted.

| Fee / charge | 2024/25 (proposed) | 2023/24 (current) | Difference (\$) | (%) | Notes |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Registration Fees | | | | | |
| New Food Control Plan Registration – 1 Year Registration (excludes verification) | \$400.00 | \$300.00 | \$100.00 | 33% | |
| New National Programme Registration (All Levels) – 2 Year Registration (excludes verification) | \$400.00 | \$300.00 | \$100.00 | 33% | |
| MPI Domestic Food Business Levy | | | | | |
| Year One Levy (2025) (per Site) | \$57.50 | | | | Subject to change as these are based on Ministry for Primary Industries consultation and aren't set by Council |
| Year Two Levy (2026) (per Site) | \$86.25 | | | | As above |
| Year Three levy (2027) (per Site) | \$115.00 | | | | As above |
| Miscellaneous Food Registration Fees | | | | | |
| Significant Change Fee (FCPs & NPs) | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | \$0.00 | 0% | |
| Significant Amendment Fee (FCPs Only) (excludes verification) | \$200.00 | | | | New fee to fulfil legislative function for significant amendments |
| Renewal of Registration | \$190.00 | \$150.00 | \$40.00 | 27% | |

| Fee / charge | 2024/25 (proposed) | 2023/24 (current) | Difference (\$) | (%) | Notes |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Late Payment Penalty for overdue invoices | 10% | | | | Introduced to incentive prompt payment and reduce non-payment of fees. |
| Verification Fees | | | | | |
| Verification Base Fee (NPs & FCPs) – Includes first two hours then hourly rate applies. | \$500.00 | \$340.00 | \$160.00 | 47% | |
| EHO/Verifier Hourly Rate - invoiced in 15 min blocks (includes email close out of corrective actions) | \$220.00 | \$185.00 | \$35.00 | 19% | |
| Late cancellation/postponement or failure to attend verification penalty (<48 hours' notice) | \$110.00 | | | | This fee is proposed to discourage late cancellations |
| Verification Revisit/failure to complete CARs Fee (second and subsequent visits) | \$200.00 | | | | This fee is for persistently non-complaint businesses who require multiple revisits. These businesses consume large amounts of time that has gone unbilled in the past. |
| Enforcement Fees | | | | | |
| Infringement for failing to register a food control plan or national programme with the appropriate authority in accordance with Food Act 2014 | \$450.00 | \$450.00 | \$0.00 | 0% | Set in legislation |
| Other Food Act 2014 infringements in accordance with Food Regulations 2015 Schedule 2 Infringement Offences and Fees | As per schedule (\$300 - \$450) | As per schedule | | | As above |

| Fee / charge | 2024/25 (proposed) | 2023/24 (current) | Difference (\$) | | Notes |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | (%) | |
| Food Safety Officer Hourly Rate (where enforcement action is required) | \$250.00 | \$185.00 | \$65.00 | 35% | |
| Request for review of enforcement | \$120.00 | | | | This is a new fee to cover time associated with reviews. |

Have Your Say

The consultation period for the proposed fees will begin on March 27 and close on 3 May 2024.

This is your opportunity to let Council know what you think of the proposed fees and charges. There are many different ways for you to tell us what you think.

You can:

- Submit using our online consultation portal at www.taupo.govt.nz;
- Email us at feesandcharges@taupo.govt.nz ; or
- Drop your submission form into a Customer and Visitor Information Centre in Taupō, Tūrangi, or Mangakino.

Copies of the statement of proposal and the proposed fees are available online or from our offices.

If you have any questions about this proposal or about how to make a submission, please contact us via email at feesandcharges@taupo.govt.nz

Hearings

Please tell us if you would like to attend the hearing to speak to Council in support of your submission and include a telephone number and email address to ensure we can contact you to arrange a time for your presentation. Hearings will be held on 23 May 2024 9.30am in the Council Chambers.

What happens next?

After the hearings, Council will consider all the submissions received and make decisions on any amendments to the fees as a result. As a submitter you will be notified of Council's decision.

Council will consider the final fees and charges for adoption on 23 May 2024.

Remember, you have until 3 May 2024 to send us your feedback.