



Section 36

Science and consent monitoring charges 2023-24

What are Section 36 charges?

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Section 243 of the Building Act 2004 and Section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) enable local authorities to fix charges for various administrative and monitoring activities. Horizons Regional Council sets their Section 36 charges every year through the Annual Plan process and issues these to consent holders to assist with our consent monitoring work and for our science, research and environmental monitoring activities.

As of 2021, all consent holders are required to pay an annual administration charge. This charge contributes to the

council's costs in undertaking its consenting, monitoring and administrative functions required under the RMA. Administrative charges apply to current consents regardless of whether it is being actively monitored or used. Where they are not in use, a consent holder reserves the right to use a resource or carry out an activity, which can limit others from holding similar consents. Consent holders who are not using their consent and don't want to pay charges can surrender this under section 138 of the RMA.

The invoice(s) attached are the annual charges from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Charges are levied each year unless the consent is cancelled, expired or transferred. If your details have changed or you wish to surrender the consent, please contact us on 0508 800 800.

Further information on these charges can be found in the Annual Plan (pg. 74).



View our FAQs for more information www.horizons.govt.nz/section-36

Investing in the region

The Manawatū-Whanganui region uses water for farming, industry, recreation and day to day life. Horizons Regional Council's work helps to ensure we all use water in a way that is safe, sustainable and maintains our natural environment. We achieve this through science, research and environmental monitoring activities to help us determine how water is allocated, how quality can be maintained and improved, and how use is changing over time.

This work involves measuring river flows, groundwater levels, rainfall levels and water quality, and using this information to report, manage, analyse and support decisions that are made about this valuable resource.

This is an enormous amount of work, and costs approximately \$5.9 million a year. Of this, 30% comes from Section 36 charges. The remaining 70% is funded by all ratepayers from both rural and urban areas.

Your investment goes a long way to help understand our natural resources and ensure they are used sustainably for the benefit of our region and economy.

We monitor



142 RIVER & STREAM

sites monthly for indicators of water quality to inform water resource management.



128 BORES MONTHLY for groundwater levels

7 ESTUARY

and four beach sites monthly for indicators of water quality

62 RIVER & STREAM SITES monthly for algae

monthly for algae

86 RIVER & STREAM SITES

annually for macroinvertebrate community composition (MCI)

38 BORES QUARTERLY for groundwater quality

for groundwater quality



WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

from 32 wastewater treatment plants and industry discharges



80 POPULAR SWIM SPOTS

monitored for bacteria and toxic algae during summer, with results uploaded to LAWA website weekly www.lawa.org.nz



17 LAKES

for indicators of water quality



ARE YOUR DETAILS UP-TO-DATE?

When selling or transferring ownership of a farm it is important to ensure any consent details are also transferred. You can also surrender your consent if you no longer need it. Give us a call toll free on 0508 800 800 to arrange this.

CASE STUDY

Seal unused wells and bores to protect your community.

Is there a well or bore on your property no longer in use? Help keep the region's groundwater safe by ensuring abandoned wells and bores are properly decommissioned.

Section 36 funding supports Horizons' groundwater monitoring programme. This funding enables our staff to monitor groundwater levels and a range of water quality indicators to understand the state of the region's groundwater. Some of this monitoring tells us if groundwater is available and suitable for use by your friends and whānau, your animals, and yourself.

Abandoned wells and bores that have not been adequately sealed represent one potential pathway for contaminants, such as bacteria, viruses, and nitrates, to enter groundwater. These contaminants can travel through groundwater and be drawn up by nearby wells and bores, risking the health of the wider community.



Decommissioning wells and bores

Decommissioning involves plugging the unused structure to a specific standard with an impermeable material to reduce a contaminant's entry point into the groundwater below.

Qualified well drillers provide well and bore decommissioning services to landowners. These experts will seal your unused structure according to New Zealand's environmental standards, which is the most effective way to reduce the risk of groundwater contamination from your well or bore.

If you would like information on qualified well drillers in your area, please email groundwater@horizons.govt.nz or call **06 9522 800**.

If there is an unused well or bore on your property, please let us know!

Horizons is looking to work with landowners to better understand the location and nature of decommissioned or unused wells and bores across the region. When the community tells us about their unused wells and bores, they help us better understand the risks to groundwater health and where there might be additional groundwater volumes available to other water users.



Please scan the QR code on this pamphlet and tell us via a short form if you have an unused well or bore on your property, or email groundwater@horizons.govt.nz, or call **06 9522 800**.

Help us keep drinking water sources safe and enable more of your neighbours to keep their showers running, quench their cow's thirst, or irrigate a paddock or two.

Learn more about groundwater in the Horizons Region at www.horizons.govt.nz.

