



# Section 36

## SCIENCE AND CONSENT MONITORING CHARGES 2019

Please find enclosed your Science and/or Consents Monitoring invoice for 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. This invoice has been issued to you as a consent holder under Section 36(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991, commonly known as Section 36 Charges.

### WHAT ARE SECTION 36 CHARGES?

In a nutshell, Section 36 Charges are consent holders' contribution to funding two main areas.

The first is the monitoring of consents across the region to ensure those who have consents are using them as they should be. The second is contributing a 30 percent share to the science and research of the region's water resources.

Our region uses water for farming, industry, recreation and day to day life. The use of this precious resource underpins our region's towns and economy, however, we must use it in a way

that is 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 the resource 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.

# YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Horizons employs a team of highly skilled staff to carry out the environmental monitoring programme to collect, analyse and report on the state of our water resource. This includes measuring the amount of rainfall, recording river flow, testing water quality and state of environment reporting. It is an enormous undertaking and costs around \$6 million a year. Thank you for your contribution which helps offset this cost by covering a percentage share (see below), with the remaining being covered by all ratepayers in the region. When deciding who should pay for what services, the principle of 'who benefits most?' is applied.

As a consent holder, you receive individual benefit from research that is carried out. For example, if you take water or discharge to land or water, our research and environmental monitoring ensures you know what parameters you need to act within to ensure regional sustainability. This reasoning is also applied to the consent monitoring charge where costs directly relate to the amount of work required to monitor and report on each consent.



## THE BREAKDOWN OF CHARGES

Section 36 Charges are applied against consents for two main areas.

### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH CHARGES

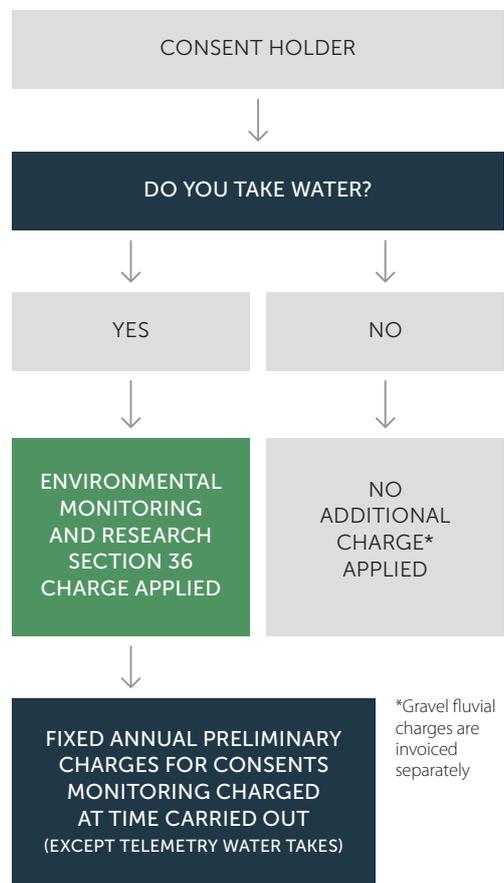
All discharge and water take consent holders pay 30 percent towards the cost of environmental monitoring and research related to the activity undertaken. The remaining 70 percent is funded by all ratepayers from both rural and urban areas.

### CONSENTS MONITORING CHARGES FOR ALL CONSENT HOLDERS

Fixed Annual Preliminary Charges (FAPC) apply to all consented sites and are charged at the time consent monitoring is carried out. The FAPC is charged at the same time as environmental monitoring and research charges for telemetered water takes as consents monitoring for these sites is ongoing.

For the monitoring of individual consents, consent holders are asked to pay between 60-80 percent towards the cost of the monitoring of their consent conditions. The remaining percentage is funded by ratepayers from both rural and urban areas. However, should a holder not comply with their consent, they are charged 100 percent of the monitoring costs.

For more information about the breakdown of Section 36 Charges please see pages 150-153 in Horizons' 2019-20 Annual Plan, available at [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)



\*Gravel fluvial charges are invoiced separately



### ARE YOUR DETAILS UP-TO-DATE?

If you hold consents across several farms or would like your information updated please let us know. When selling or transferring ownership of a farm it is important to ensure consent details are also transferred. Give us a call on toll free **0508 800 800** to arrange this.

# THE BIG PICTURE

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. For example, across the region we monitor:



**142 RIVER & STREAM**

sites monthly for 19 indicators of water quality to inform water resource management



**56 CONSENTED GRAVEL TAKES**

that total around 900,000 m<sup>3</sup> annually, contributing to roading and construction



**83 POPULAR SWIM SPOTS**

for bacteria during the 2019-20 summer with results updated to Horizons' website weekly



**15 LAKES**

quarterly for 16 indicators of water quality



**129 BORES MONTHLY**

for groundwater levels and

**38 BORES QUARTERLY**

for groundwater quality



**DISCHARGE**

from 32 major wastewater treatment plants and industry discharges to water monthly, to monitor compliance and inform water quality management decisions

## COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS

Groundwater is our largest, but least visible freshwater resource. It lies beneath all our land-based activities, from farming and industry, to towns and cities. It is therefore vulnerable to contamination from a range of sources.

One important source of potential contamination is from the use of pesticides, which we use to control weeds, pests and diseases from damaging crops and fields. Although their use is regulated, they can still cause groundwater contamination when they leach from the field and through the soil profile.

To monitor their persistence in New Zealand groundwaters, the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) runs a four-yearly nationwide assessment of pesticides in partnership with regional councils. Horizons has participated in this programme since 1994.

In 2018, in addition to the usual pesticides, this survey also included testing for glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup, a popular weed killer) and a range of emerging organic contaminants (EOCs). EOCs are a class of compounds used for everything from the production and preservation of food to personal care products, as well as human and animal healthcare. The survey tested for around 30 of these compounds, found in products such as caffeine, artificial sweeteners, pain relief, contraceptive pills and sunscreen.

In total, Horizons sampled 20 bores around the region for pesticides and glyphosate, and eight of these were also sampled for EOCs. As we've had pesticide detections in previous years, some of these bores were re-sampled and some were sampled for the first time. Two of the twenty bores tested returned positive results. Detection levels were below guideline limits where these are available. We had detections at low concentrations at six bores for a wide range of EOCs, though there are generally no health guidelines associated with them. No glyphosate was detected in the region, in fact only one bore out of a total of 135 bores sampled nationally returned a positive result.

Horizons' partnership with ESR in the pesticides programme is a useful way for us to keep track of pesticide contamination in the region. Its expansion in 2018 into EOCs gave us, and wider New Zealand, a view about how easily contaminants can make their way into the environment in low concentrations.

Information of the safe use of agrichemicals can be found at [www.growsafe.co.nz](http://www.growsafe.co.nz).



## ONLINE WATER INFORMATION

You can find useful real-time environmental data about the flows and levels of rivers at [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz). This means you can monitor your local river and the possible effect the flows and levels may have on your consent.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We've collated a number of the most frequently asked questions regarding Section 36 Charges below. However, we understand this may not address all your questions, so for more information please contact our friendly Customer Services Team on 0508 800 800.

### HOW MUCH OF THE SCIENCE RESEARCH AM I FUNDING?

It depends. If you have a consent for a discharge, water take or land use you are contributing a 30 percent share of the overall cost. If you have a generic consent you are not charged directly but you do still contribute through the general rate. For the breakdown of Section 36 Charges please see pages 150-153 in Horizons' 2019-20 Annual Plan, available at [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)

### HOW OFTEN IS THIS RESEARCH FEE CHARGED?

The charge is levied each year unless the consent is cancelled, expired, or transferred. If your details have changed please contact us.

### TO WHAT PERIOD DOES MY INVOICE REFER, AND HOW OFTEN ARE INVOICES SENT?

Your invoice refers to the 12 month period 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020. These invoices are issued annually, midway through the invoice period (January - February each year).

### WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY?

Council has determined that consent holders receive individual benefit from the monitoring research that is carried out. The individual consent monitoring charge covers the costs of monitoring a holder's individual consent and is charged as a Fixed Annual Preliminary Charge (FAPC) at the time Horizons does the monitoring.

### HOW CAN I HAVE MY SAY REGARDING THESE CHARGES?

Research charges are determined by Horizons Regional Council's elected Councillors following a public consultation process. You can make submissions on Council's Draft Annual Plan during the consultation process generally in the first third of each year. For further information on how to get involved, please contact Customer Services at Horizons on 0508 800 800.

### WHAT DO I GET FOR MY MONEY?

Information to inform sustainable management of our water resources. By researching the effects of all current resource consents including your own, the Council is able to ensure that such consents can be effectively maintained, while sustainably managing the environment now and for the future.

### WHAT ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE WHO BENEFIT FROM THIS RESEARCH BUT ARE NOT CHARGED THIS FEE?

All ratepayers, both rural and residential, fund an approximate 70 percent share of the research costs through the general rating system.

### WHY ISN'T THIS FEE ALSO BEING CHARGED TO MY NEIGHBOUR?

The fees are based on the consent held by the property owner and often neighbours have different consents. If you believe that your neighbour should also be liable for this charge, please provide full details and we will look into it.