



Section 36

SCIENCE AND CONSENT MONITORING CHARGES 2019

Please find enclosed your Science and/or Consents Monitoring invoice for 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. 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 and 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 \$5.9 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

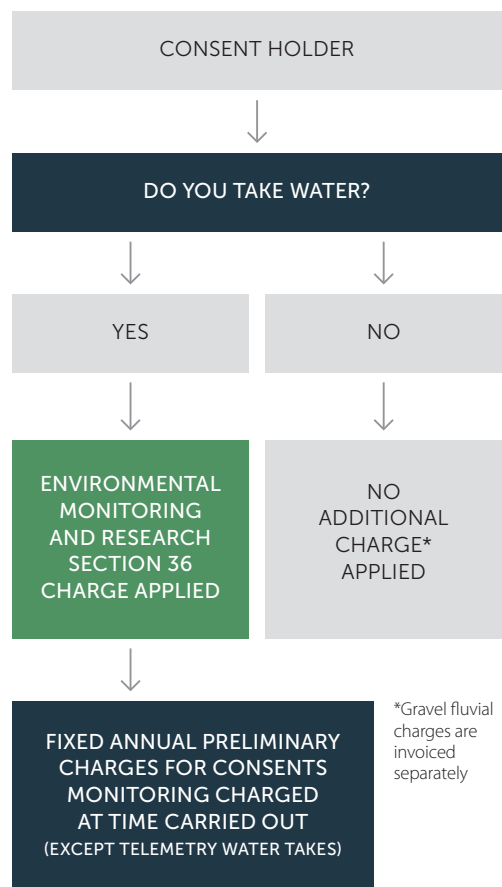
All discharge and water take consent holders pay 30 percent towards the cost of environmental monitoring and research related to the activity undertaken. The remaining 70 percent is funded by all ratepayers from both rural and urban areas.

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 244-247 in Horizons' 2018-28 Long-term Plan, available at www.horizons.govt.nz



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



53 CONSENTED GRAVEL TAKES

that total around 900,000 m³ annually, contributing to roading and construction



83 POPULAR SWIM SPOTS

for bacteria during the 2018-19 summer with results updated to Horizons' website weekly



15 LAKES

quarterly for 16 indicators of water quality



192 BORES

monthly for groundwater levels and 31 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

When a person looks at a river or stream, one of the fundamental questions often asked is, "what is the health of this waterway?" One of our most useful measures of this in hard bottomed streams is the condition of the periphyton community.

Periphyton is the community of algae found growing on the beds of streams and rivers. In clean, high country streams, periphyton communities often take the form of a thin, slippery layer on the surface of rocks. In lowland, slow moving, and highly nutrient enriched waterways, periphyton can take the form of long green slimes, and thick mats of growth covering the stream bed.

As well as being aesthetically unappealing, large proliferations of periphyton result in changes to the macroinvertebrate (bug) community that fish and birds feed on, and can result in large swings in the levels of dissolved oxygen in the water column required for fish and insects to breathe. Periphyton communities are altered by a wide range of factors, many of which can be influenced to varying degrees by people. Changes in flow regime and nutrient levels are some of the strongest influencing factors, along with non-anthropogenic factors such as underlying geology.

Horizons undertakes periphyton monitoring at approximately 63 sites around the region. The programme has been running for around ten years, providing us with the largest and most comprehensive

periphyton datasets in the country. This has put us in a unique position to reassess our understanding of the interactions that lead to periphyton proliferations.

In 2016, Horizons teamed up with DairyNZ and NIWA to analyse the first state and trends of our periphyton data, and then in 2017 – 2018 to undertake an in-depth analysis of drivers of periphyton growth. This led to a significant advancement in understanding of the relationships between nutrient, flows and periphyton, and produced 'look up' tables that identify nutrient concentrations for specific periphyton outcomes. This report has implications for much of the country, and has been picked up and used as a case study for the Ministry for Environment report *A Draft Guide to the Periphyton Attribute Note: Under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (amended 2017)*.

This report is available on Horizons' website and is published as:

Kilroy, C., Greenwood, M., Weh, J., Stephens, T., Brown, L., Matthews, A., Patterson, M. and Patterson, M. (2018). *Periphyton - environment relationships in the Horizons region: Analysis of a seven-year dataset*. NIWA Client Report 2018123CH prepared for DairyNZ and Horizons Regional Council, March 2018.



ONLINE WATER INFORMATION

You can find useful real-time environmental data about the flows and levels of rivers at 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 244-247 in Horizons' 2018-28 Long-term Plan, available at 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 2018 - 30 June 2019. 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.