



Section 36

SCIENCE AND CONSENT MONITORING CHARGES 2020-21

Please find enclosed your Science and/or Consents Monitoring invoice for 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. 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.

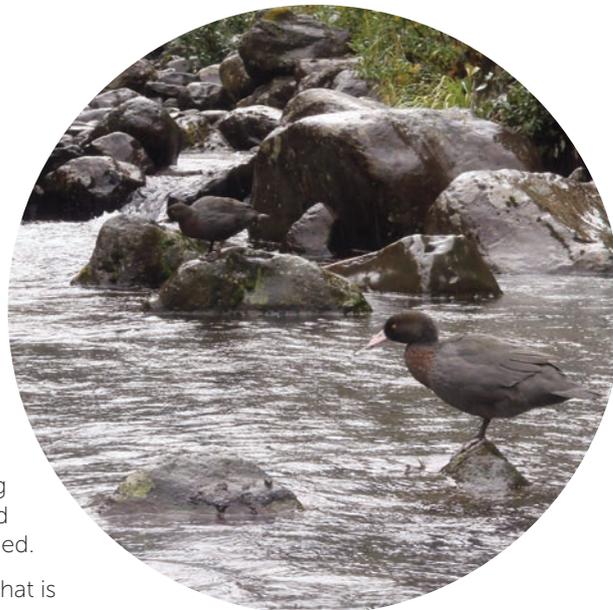
Our region uses water for farming, industry, recreation and day to day life. The use of this precious resource underpins our region's towns and economy, however, we must use it in a way

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 \$6.25 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

For more information about the breakdown of Section 36 Charges please see pages 164 – 167 in Horizons' 2020-21 Annual Plan, available at www.horizons.govt.nz

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH CHARGES

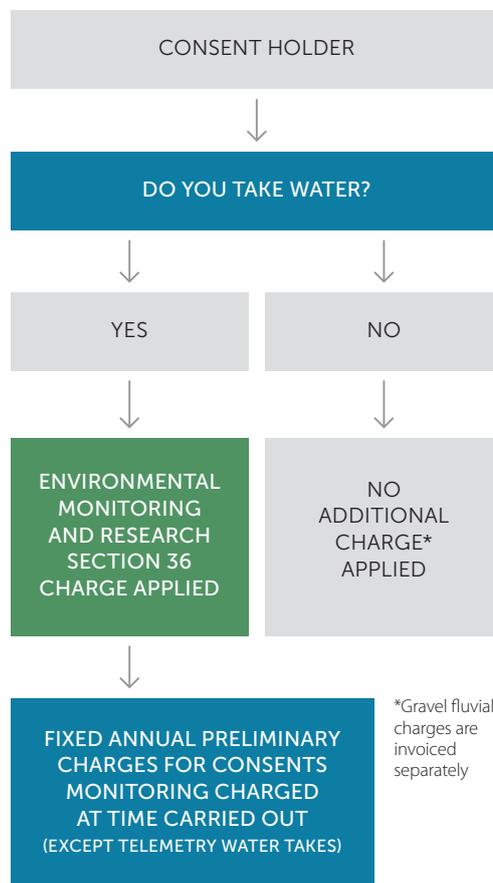
All discharge and water take consent holders pay 30 percent towards the cost of environmental monitoring and research related to the activity undertaken. The remaining 70 percent is funded by all ratepayers from both rural and urban areas.

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 164-167 in Horizons' 2020-21 Annual Plan, available at 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:



144 RIVER & STREAM

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



45 CONSENTED GRAVEL TAKES

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



81 POPULAR SWIM SPOTS

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



17 LAKES

11 quarterly and 6 monthly for 16 indicators of water quality



129 BORES MONTHLY

for groundwater levels and

38 BORES QUARTERLY

for groundwater quality



DISCHARGE

from 31 major wastewater treatment plants and industry discharges to water monthly, to monitor compliance and inform water quality management decisions

TARARUA PROJECT EXPLORES THE EFFECTS OF PLANTAIN ON NITROGEN LEACHING

The new Essential Freshwater regulations introduced by central government in September 2020 include regulating farm plans and the reporting of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser by landowners. This is intended to address the problem of nitrogen leaching entering waterways which impacts both water quality and in-stream life.

Horizons' Regional Policy and Regional Plan (collectively referred to as the One Plan) identifies nitrogen leaching from intensive farming land use activities such as dairy farming, as a key challenge for water quality in the region.

Research led by DairyNZ in collaboration with a range of partners, including Horizons Regional Council, is underway looking at economically viable ways for farmers to reduce their nitrogen leaching footprint. Plantain has been identified as one of the lead pasture-based mitigations most effective at reducing nitrogen leaching.

To help inform this research, farmers in the Tararua District are working with DairyNZ to incorporate plantain into their planting regime to help with nitrogen leaching and compliance with the One Plan. Horizons is supporting this through a monitoring programme - seeking to ground-truth the effectiveness of plantain for reducing nitrogen leaching at a catchment scale.

The Tararua District contains more than a third of the dairy farms in the Horizons Region and was seen as the obvious place to begin. To date 60 unconsented farms have incorporated plantain into their pasture, with a project objective for 118 farms (in total) to come onboard. The project began in the 2018-19 season and will run for seven years.

DairyNZ project manager, Adam Duker says plantain is a viable option for reducing nitrogen leaching that needs to be seriously considered.



Courtesy of DairyNZ

"In addition to its success in reducing nitrogen leaching, plantain is a mineral rich feed which fairs better during summer dry conditions than traditional ryegrass species. Accordingly, when used as a component of pasture, plantain has the potential to improve milk production during summer-autumn while reducing nitrogen leaching," says Mr Duker.

It is hoped the project will help farmers incorporate plantain profitably into their farming system by providing local data and sharing other farmers' experience, coupled with the research knowledge provided by the project team.

Water quality monitoring carried out by project farmers, alongside Horizons' state of the environment monitoring programme, will provide direct feedback to farmers and the local community on the actual improvements realised from plantain as well as other environmental initiatives within the catchment.

As well as working with Horizons, DairyNZ has a six strong project team liaising with local dairy farmers and their farm consultants with project collaboration from Massey University, AgResearch, Agricom and Fonterra. The project acknowledges direct funding from DairyNZ, MPI, and Nestle alongside Horizons' project contribution.



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 164-167 in Horizons' 2020-21 Annual 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 2020-30 June 2021. 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.

