

23 August 2021

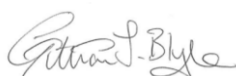
Department of Internal Affairs

Threewaters@dia.govt.nz

Proposed cost recovery fees and charges under Water Services Bill regulations

1. Water New Zealand ("Water NZ") appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed cost recovery fees and charges under the Water Services Bill regulations.
2. Water NZ is a national not-for-profit organisation which promotes the sustainable management and development of New Zealand's three waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater).
3. Water NZ supports the objectives outlined by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA): effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, consultation, equity, simplicity, authority and accountability. These objectives should apply not just to cost recovery fees and charges but also to the processes for considering applications from drinking water suppliers for planned events, for general exemptions and for exemptions from residual disinfectant requirements. For example, the regulations should transparently set out the timeframes applicants should expect to abide by for applications for planned events, e.g. how many business days notice is required to process applications. Similarly, if an application initially appears straightforward but on examination becomes more complex, that Taumata Arowai will consult with, and seek agreement from the applicant that they wish their application to continue to be processed before the water services regulator runs up higher fees.
4. Water NZ agrees that applicants applying for a temporary water supply (for planned events) and/or exemptions should pay the full costs of Taumata Arowai providing these services.
5. Water NZ agrees that a fixed fee plus a variable rate is an appropriate basis for charging for these services. Noting the comments set out in paragraph (3) regarding the objectives and processes for considering applications.
6. The proposed fees appear reasonable based on the projected staff costs and overheads, and estimated timeframes for considering applications.
7. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact me.

Nga mihi



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