



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Dambuilders

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Dams – fees and charges

All councils that wish to fulfil building consent functions are required to be accredited by the Department of Building and Housing. To prevent duplication of services and to provide greater efficiencies a transfer agreement has been reached between Environment Waikato (Waikato Regional Council) and most other North Island regional councils.

If you own a dam or canal, or are planning to construct, modify or remove a dam, canal or a structure associated with a dam, then you should read the Dambuilders series of brochures.

In the final of the series of five, we set out the relevant fees and charges.

Dams – fees and charges

Overview

There are a number of items associated with any existing, or proposed dam building project that requires input from your regional council and/or the Building Control Authority responsible for administering the Building Act 2004 (the Act). These items may include the following:

- Project Information Memorandum application (PIM).
- processing of building consents
- inspection process
- Code Compliance Certificates (CCC)
- dam safety assurance programme
- dam compliance certificate
- compliance schedule and warrant of fitness (if containing specified systems).

Environment Waikato's cost recovery policy is based on the principle of 'user pays'. This means that for your dam project, all costs associated with this project, including future ongoing annual charges and monitoring will be charged to the dam owner. This includes all costs involved in assessing and processing your application, whether your application is granted or refused.

Deposits

All applications will require a deposit at the time the application is lodged with Environment Waikato (see table 1).

Consent costs

As noted above, costs incurred by council in processing applications will be recovered on a full cost recovery basis. Therefore due to the scale, complexity and specialist design features associated with each dam project, the costs associated with processing individual building consents will vary greatly. The assessing of dam consents is a new function for Environment Waikato due to recent changes to the Act, and at this stage Environment Waikato is unable to give any indications as to what the likely costs will be associated with this work. Some of the items that will or may contribute to the costs of your application are listed:

- administrative costs (includes the officer's time per hour (see table 2), plus any direct costs including disbursements)
- development contributions (where applicable, these will be identified on your PIM from your local council)
- regulatory fees and charges such as BRANZ and Department of Building and Housing levies (these apply to all work valued at \$20,000 or more). The BRANZ levy is currently \$1 per \$1,000. The Department of Building and Housing levy is \$1.97 per \$1,000. Where the consent is staged, the payable levy is assessed on the total project value.
- processing costs associated with engaging specialist consultants on a cost recovery basis
- interim invoices seeking progress payments of costs incurred may apply where an application/inspection process takes more than one month
- additional costs where applicable, including items such as travel, copying/scanning documentation.

Inspection costs

When your building consent is issued, Environment Waikato will determine the number of inspections required based on the planned work.

Consultants acting for Environment Waikato will undertake the inspections with their direct costs being charged to the consent holder on an 'actual and reasonable costs' basis.

Other fees and charges

Where additional charges and fees are required, these will be on the basis of recorded time spent on the application and other costs such as travel and general administration where applicable.

Website

All fees and charges are reviewed annually and are available on Environment Waikato's website www.ew.govt.nz.

Table 1: Deposits on applications

Work type	PIM deposit	Building consent deposit	Certificate of Acceptance	Amendment to Compliance Schedule
Large dam (above \$100,000 value)	\$1000	\$4000	\$4000	\$1000
Medium dam (\$20,000 to \$100,000 value)	\$750	\$2000	\$2000	
Small dam (\$0 - \$20,000 value)	\$500	\$500	\$500	

Table 2: Charges for council staff services

Work type	PIM deposit
Group Manager	\$131
Program Manager	\$131
Building Act officer	\$107

For more information visit Environment Waikato's website, www.ew.govt.nz or phone 0800 800 401.