

Meeting	Fees and Charges 2019/2020 Hearing
Date	Thursday 06 June 2019
Time	9.00am
Venue	Mangawhai Club – 219 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai

Hearing Agenda

Membership

Chair: Mayor Jason Smith
Members: Deputy Mayor Peter Wethey
Councillor Anna Curnow
Councillor Victoria del la Varis-Woodcock
Councillor Julie Geange
Councillor Libby Jones
Councillor Karen Joyce-Paki
Councillor Jonathan Larsen
Councillor Andrew Wade

Fees and Charges 2019/2020 Hearing

Thursday 06 June 2019 in Mangawhai

1 Opening

1.1 Karakia

1.2 Present

1.3 Apologies

1.4 Conflict of Interest

2 Submissions

Recommended

That the Kaipara District Council notes the submission received in response to the Draft Fees and Charges 2019/2020.

[Secretarial Note: One submission from Federated Farmers of New Zealand was received for Draft Fees and Charges 2019/2020. This submission is attached to the agenda.]

Closure

Kaipara District Council

Dargaville

Submission

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ



To: Kaipara District Council

Submission on: Fees and Charges 2019/2020.

Date: 30 April 2019

Contact: Richard Gardner

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Federated Farmers thanks the Kaipara District Council (the **Council**) for the opportunity to comment on the Kaipara District Council's proposed Fees and Charges 2019/2020 (the **Proposal**).

Federated Farmers **generally supports** the Proposal.

Federated Farmers acknowledges any submissions made by its individual members.

Federated Farmers **wishes to be heard** in support of this submission.

INTRODUCTION

Federated Farmers takes the opportunity to make a brief submission on the Kaipara District Council' proposed Fees and Charges 2019/2020. Federated Farmers recognises that Council is required to carry out certain administrative functions, and that its fees and charges are used to assist the operation and maintenance of a variety of services the Council provides to the community. Federated Farmers supports the Council's approach, that its fees and charges are made on a user-pays basis to ensure that rates and rate increases are kept to a minimum.

This submission is made with reference to Federated Farmers' submission on the Council's Draft Dog Management Bylaw and Policy. It is understood that the Draft Dog Management Policy set out the approach Council takes to managing dogs in the District, and that the Draft Dog Management Bylaw is the legal instrument which gives effect to the approach set out in the Policy.

In the submission, Federated Farmers stated that it supported a tiered user pays registration fee structure and the price break for working dogs i.e. \$40 - \$50 (depending on whether the dog is de-sexed) compared with \$52-\$62 for normal pets. The submission was made on the basis that farm dogs have a lower impact than other dogs on Council resources and facilities, because they are domiciled and work well away from urban areas (where dog control is an issue). The submission noted that farmers are responsible and professional dog owners.

The submission stated that most farmers own multiple working dogs (i.e. farm dogs generally work in teams of three or four), and encouraged the Council to introduce a useful registration fee rebate for teams (i.e. more than two) of working dogs, noting that a 50% rebate would be in line with the approach taken by other councils. The submission noted that Federated Farmers would be making a submission along these lines on the Council's Proposed Fees & Charges for 2019/2020.

Turning to the Proposal as a whole, in general terms, Federated Farmers supports the Council having fees and charges for carrying out its administrative functions, and assisting the operation and maintenance of the services the Council provides to the community. Nevertheless, Federated Farmers is concerned to see that the Council carries out the duties for which it receives recompense by way of fees and charges in an as efficient manner as is possible. Federated Farmers considers that the Council should take every opportunity to ensure that this is achieved.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council introduce a dog registration fee of \$22 per working dog for 3 or more working dogs registered to the same owner.

That the Council otherwise adopt the fees and charges as proposed, but ensure that it carries out the duties for which it receives recompense by way of fees and charges in an as efficient manner as is possible.

SPECIFIC SUBMISSIONS

Dog Registration Fees

As discussed in the Introduction, Federated Farmers supports a tiered user pays registration fee structure and the price break for working dogs of \$44 compared with \$66 for non-working “pets” and companion animals. Farm dogs have a lower impact than other dogs on Council resources and facilities as they are based, and they carry out their work, well away from urban areas, where it is acknowledged that dog control is an issue. Farmers are also responsible and professional dog owners.

Most farmers own multiple working dogs, with farm dogs generally working in teams of three or four. Federated Farmers asks that the Council introduce a useful registration fee rebate for teams (i.e. more than two) of working dogs. A 50% rebate would be in line with the approach taken by other councils.

Recommendation: That the Council introduce a dog registration fee of \$22 per working dog for 3 or more working dogs registered to the same owner.

Other Fees and Charges

As is also discussed in the Introduction, Federated Farmers supports the Council charging for carrying out its administrative functions and undertaking the operation and maintenance of services which the Council provides to the community.

Federated Farmers is nevertheless concerned to see that the Council carries out these duties in an as efficient manner as is possible. Federated Farmers considers that the Council should take every opportunity to ensure that this is achieved.

Recommendation: That the Council adopt the fees and charges as proposed (other than the Dog Registration fee per dog for 20 or more dogs registered to the same owner), but ensure that it carries out the duties for which it receives recompense by way of fees and charges in an as efficient manner as is possible.

THE FEDERATION

Federated Farmers of New Zealand is a primary sector organisation that represents the majority of the country’s farming businesses. The Federation has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand’s farming communities, primary producers, and agricultural exporters.

The Federation aims to add value to its members’ farming business. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

The total agricultural sector is even more important to the economy than it was fifteen years ago. Its contribution to the New Zealand economy has risen from around 14.2 percent of GDP in 1986/87 to around 17 percent today (including downstream processing). Some authorities consider agriculture's current contribution to the New Zealand economy to be about 20 percent of GDP.

Federated Farmers looks forward to further consultation with the Kaipara District Council on the Council's Fees and Charges 2019/2020.

p.p. John Blackwell
Northland Provincial President, Federated Farmers of New Zealand

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