

Cost Recovery

Costs associated with preparing an Assessment of Cultural Effects



This Information Sheet provides an overview of the costs associated with preparing an Assessment of Cultural Effects.

Some resource consent applications will require an Assessment of Cultural Effects. This is an assessment of the effect(s) of a proposed activity (e.g. water abstraction) on Māori cultural interests and values. It is generally prepared with, or by, a relevant Iwi or Hapū Authority. In some instances, more than one Iwi or Hapū authority may have an interest in the proposed activity, therefore requiring consideration from multiple iwi or hapū.

Depending on the scale and nature of the proposed activity, the assessment may be in the form of a letter, email or technical report. Like any technical advice, such as from an engineer or ecologist, there may be costs associated with the preparation of an Assessment of Cultural Effects.

Why are costs charged?

This is to cover the reasonable costs, predominantly staff time, associated with the Assessment of Cultural Effects.

While many organisations such as Councils have paid staff working full time on resource consent applications, this is not the case for many Iwi and Hapū Authorities. Resources are often limited at Iwi and Hapu Authorities and much of their work force is of a voluntary nature.

What costs are involved?

This may include:

- Time and mileage to attend a meeting or site visit
- Time associated with research, preparing assessments and correspondence
- Time associated with liaising with relevant Iwi or Hapū technical experts / representatives
- Costs associated with meeting at a marae e.g. koha
- Any hui and meeting place costs e.g. room hire
- Administrative costs such as printing, photocopying

How much will it cost?

This will depend on the scale and nature of the proposed activity. It is recommended that you discuss the proposed activity with the relevant Iwi or Hapū Authority to discuss and agree on the proposed methodology, timing and costs for an Assessment of Cultural Effects. The hourly rate is often based on market rates for technical services.

What is a Fees Schedule?

Some Iwi or Hapū Authorities may choose to prepare a Fees Schedule in which to direct consent applicants. This is to provide information upfront as to the actual cost of providing technical advice. The Fees Schedule would include a breakdown of costs for services provided.

Should there be a Terms of Reference/written agreement?

It is essential to discuss and agree on the scope of work (including timing, cost and deliverables) with the Iwi or Hapū representatives before commencing work. This could include the preparation of a written agreement/short contract to provide certainty for both parties.