

Excerpt from 25-I-0025 Heritage Expeditions Invitation evaluation provided under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA:

- DOC contracted MartinJenkins to undertake an independent review on cost-recovery for visitor impact monitoring. This review suggests DOC is significantly under-recovering costs from operators and suggested increasing the fee by approximately 162% to appropriately recover costs associated with tourism. We anticipate any increase in fees will result in further correspondence to your office.

Released under the Official Information Act

Subantarctic Islands

Status Report MOC 68 – week beginning 7 July 2025 – item 2.1

<https://doccm.doc.govt.nz/cwxv4/wcc/faces/wccdoc?dDocName=DOC-10357703>

2.1 Priorities update: Generate new revenue and recalibrate costs – Subantarctic allocation process fees update

Applications are currently being sought from Operators for multi-year entry permit allocations for the Subantarctic Islands. This is a new approach to allocation following a review of the process (undertaken last year in consultation with Operators). As part of this allocation process, DOC is implementing fee increases to the concession activity fee and Visitor Impact Management (VIM) fee.

DOC also commissioned an independent review of the fees for these permits earlier this year. This review found that DOC is significantly under-recovering costs from Operators, and that the current concession activity fee is not at market value. The report suggested increasing the VIM fee and concession activity fee to appropriately recover costs associated with tourism and reflect market value.

DOC accepted these recommendations and the following fee increases are being implemented over the next three seasons (to enable operators to factor them into their pricing):

Fee type	Year	Fee
VIM	2024/25	\$405+GST
	2025/26	\$712+GST
	2026/27	\$933+GST
	2027/28	\$1,056+GST
Activity	2024/25	\$30+GST
	2025/26	\$43+GST
	2026/27	\$56+GST
	2027/28	\$171+GST

A review of fees was signalled to Operators 30 September 2024, and expectation of fee increases were signposted to Operators in communications from the Department on 9 June 2025.

Operators were given details of the increased fees and the incremental increases over the coming three years on 30 June 2025.

We note that Operators may approach your office to discuss the fee increases.

Next steps

We will work with your office to respond to any issues or concerns raised.

Additional information on fee increases can be provided on request.

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