

Priorities update: Generating and activating revenue through the conservation estate

Paid car parking pilot

This item updates you on the paid car parking pilot.

DOC has:

changed the location of one proposed car parking pilot, and
issued a press release on 13 November announcing the start of the trial.

Updates to sites

We have undertaken further analysis on the feasibility and site suitability of the three pilot sites we proposed to you:

White Horse Hill – Aoraki,
Dolomite Point – Punakaiki, and
Roys Peak - Wānaka.

We have determined that Franz Josef Glacier valley car parks should be included in the pilot, replacing Roys Peak.

This car park is at the start of the popular Franz Josef Glacier/ Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere Walk which is one of DOC's most visited day visitor sites.

Franz Josef valley car park has higher potential revenue and cost benefit ratio than Roys Peak:

Car park locations	Estimated vehicles p.a.	Estimated Revenue	Benefit cost ratio
Roys Peak	38,000	\$0.3M	2.2
Franz Josef Glacier valley	121,000	\$0.6M	2.5
Punakaiki - Dolomite Point	110,000	\$1.1M	2.2
Aoraki - White Horse Hill	149,000	\$1.5M	3.8

Following the pilot, we will revisit introducing paid car parking at Roys Peak.

Risks

Environmental factors mean that DOC may move Franz Josef Glacier car park in the future. We will ensure that any parking technology installed in Franz Valley is able to be relocated if necessary.

Next steps

We will engage with stakeholders on the pilot at the Recreation Sector Forum on 4 December and with other relevant stakeholders shortly after that.

We will keep you updated on progress on the pilot.

Contact: Cat Wilson, Director, Heritage and Visitors, Ph: 9(2)(a)

Status Report MOC 55 - Week beginning 24 March 2025

Priorities update: Generating and activating revenue through the conservation estate – Paid car parking pilot

In October 2024, you approved \$3.8M in IVL funding to pilot car park charges from summer 2025/2026 at three DOC car parks. This funding included upgrades to two of the pilot sites.

The three pilot sites and required upgrades are:

- » **Dolomite Point (West Coast, South Island)** – Southern car park needs to be formed and sealed. Professional services and construction procurement are underway.
- » **White Horse Hill (Aoraki in Canterbury, South Island)** – Increased car park capacity is required to accommodate and manage excess demand at this site and is discussed in more detail below. Professional services procurement is underway.
- » **Franz Josef Glacier (West Coast, South Island)** – No upgrades are required.

Paid parking revenue for the three sites is estimated at \$2.5 million in 2025/26.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for design, supply, installation, and servicing of paid parking hardware is planned to go live on GETS during the week of 17 March. We anticipate that hardware installation will begin in October 2025.

Managing Increased Visitor Demand at White Horse Hill

Visitor demand to Aoraki National Park and White Horse Hill car park continues to exceed pre-COVID numbers and is expected to grow as international visitor arrivals continue to recover.

The initial business case included CAPEX to increase car park capacity from 300 to 380. Further analysis indicates this will not solve demand issues that regularly see cars parked for up to 1.5km along Hooker Valley Road.

We are now developing longer term options for managing the level of visitor demand. Options include paid park-and-ride locations, increasing capacity at White Horse Hill car park and other options.

Risks

Construction delays could impact peak visitor season next summer. To mitigate this risk, we plan to complete construction outside peak season and use temporary options to charge during 2025/26, if needed.

Next Steps

We will evaluate RFP responses and aim to contract a parking hardware and services vendor by August 2025, to install in October 2025.

We will engage with partners and stakeholders to help inform our approach to implementing charges at the three sites.

Contact: Cat Wilson, Director Heritage and Visitors: 9(2)(a)



Status Report MOC 72 - week beginning 11 August 2025

Priorities update: Generate new revenue and recalibrate costs – paid car parking pilot

In October 2024, you approved \$3.8 million in IVL funding to pilot carpark charges from summer 2025/2026 at three DOC carparks: Punakaiki / Dolomite Point, Franz Josef Glacier, White Horse Hill (Aoraki).

The first stage of formal engagement has been completed at the three sites. We received over 150 submissions that have informed our proposed parking pricing strategy.

The proposed pricing strategy considers feedback from those submissions, international and domestic market research, and traffic monitoring analysis.

Proposed pricing

The below diagram shows proposed pricing for Franz Josef and Punakaiki / Dolomite Point carparks. This information was planned for public release before 7 August, and planned drop-in sessions are scheduled on 14 and 15 August at those two locations.



Proposed pricing includes:

A local permit – DOC will offer a yearly permit for locals based on district council boundaries, for \$10 per year.

An annual permit – Recognising that some regular users come from further afield, we will offer a yearly permit open to any vehicle for \$60 per year.

Both permits allow unlimited access to a single car park at one location.

Stakeholder feedback and coverage

A small group of submitters including the cafe owner at Punakaiki have sent numerous emails, letters, complaints, and OIA requests on the paid parking pilot.

There have been several media reports on the programme, mostly with balanced coverage.

We have heard from concessionaires that believe they should not pay parking charges in addition to Crown activity fees. During the pilot, we do not propose charging concessionaires for parking.

Next steps

Stakeholder feedback on the proposed pricing strategy for Franz Josef and Dolomite Point closes on 26 August. Feedback will inform the final price strategy report for internal DOC approvals before advising stakeholders and **implementing paid parking in October** this year.

Stakeholder feedback for White Horse Hill closes later in September and is planned for

December implementation.

Contact: Cat Wilson, Director, Heritage and Visitors: 9(2)(a)

Status Report MOC 76 - week beginning 8 September 2025

Priorities update: Paid Car Parking Pilot

In October 2024, you approved \$3.8M in IVL funding to pilot carpark charges from summer 2025/2026 at three of our carparks: Punakaiki / Dolomite Point, Franz Josef Glacier, and White Horse Hill (Aoraki).

Stakeholder engagement and pricing feedback

In early August we held in-person drop-in sessions at Franz Josef and Dolomite Point to hear stakeholder feedback and discuss the proposed pricing strategy we recently released. Feedback on pricing closed 26 August and we don't expect changes to the proposed pricing at these two locations.

The project has surfaced inconsistencies with concession agreements, as outlined in the briefing 25-B-0311 - Briefing: Advice on interaction between Crown activity fees and carpark fees (21 August). Consequently, concessionaires will not be charged for parking during the pilot, which has been well-received.

Stakeholder feedback for White Horse Hill closes later in September and paid parking is still planned for December implementation.

Update: Implementation delay to December for all sites

Due to delays in finalising the design-build contract with our parking hardware and services preferred supplier, implementation of paid parking at Franz Josef and Dolomite Point will not meet the original October 2025 target.

The preferred vendor has confirmed a 12-week delivery timeframe from contract signing.

This could mean implementation does not occur until early December; however, we are working closely with the vendor to identify opportunities to compress the timeframe where possible.

Next Steps

The project team is working on mitigating other risks identified as high such as land tenure issues at Dolomite Point southern carpark, and the vendor's ongoing parking hardware detailed design may identify requirements for structural foundations.

We will keep you updated on our progress.

Contact: Cat Wilson, Director, Heritage and Visitors: 9(2)(a)

February 2025 – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) projects Monthly progress report

Visitor projects							
Project name	Description: goal	Funded years	Budget	Progress over the month	Next major milestone	Project status	Any risks or delays
Car Park Charging Pilot	To pilot paid parking at three South Island visitor hotspots to help manage visitor pressure and support conservation.	2024/25 to 2026/27	\$3.78m	Defining technology requirements and preparing the Request for Proposals (RFP).	Traffic analysis of Aoraki to define optimal plan for parking. RFP will go live.	On track	

March 2025 – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) projects Monthly progress report

Project name	Description: goal	Funded years	Budget	Progress over the month	Next major milestone	Project status	Any risks or delays
Car Park Charging Pilot	To pilot paid parking at three South Island visitor hotspots to help manage visitor pressure and support conservation.	2024/25 to 2026/27	\$3.78m	Technology requirements defined and procurement plan approved.	Request for Proposals (RFP) publicly advertised for parking hardware and services (March). Traffic analysis of Aoraki, Franz Josef, and Dolomite Point to inform pricing, and design and transport planning at Aoraki (April).	At Risk	Contingency planning underway in case there are delays in RFP process. This could include interim options for charging.

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April 2025 – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) projects Monthly progress report

Project name	Description: goal	Funded years	Budget	Progress over the month	Next major milestone	Project status	Any risks or delays
Paid Parking Pilot	<i>To pilot paid parking at three South Island visitor hotspots to help manage visitor pressure and support conservation.</i>	2024/25 to 2026/27	\$3.78m	<p>Request for Proposals (RFP) was publicly advertised for parking hardware and services.</p> <p>Traffic surveys at Aoraki, Franz Josef, and Dolomite Point completed. Traffic survey analysis to inform pricing has commenced.</p> <p>Communications and engagement plan awaits sign-off.</p>	<p>Hardware and services RFP evaluation starts 7 May 2025.</p> <p>Procurement planning for construction services at Dolomite Point commenced.</p> <p>Local engagement is planned for May/June.</p>	On track	<p>Tight programme timeline with little contingency for any further loss of time.</p>

May 2025 – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) projects Monthly progress report

Project name	Description: goal	Funded years	Budget	Progress over the month	Next major milestone	Project status	Any risks or delays
Paid Parking Pilot	<i>To pilot paid parking at three South Island visitor hotspots to help manage visitor pressure and support conservation.</i>	2024/25 to 2026/27	\$3.78m	<p>Request for Proposals (RFP) for parking hardware and services, has closed and evaluation has started.</p> <p>Pricing strategy work is ongoing.</p> <p>Local stakeholder engagement is underway.</p>	<p>RFP for parking hardware and services - award contract in August.</p> <p>Procurement planning for construction services at Dolomite Point signed off and start construction RFT.</p> <p>Complete pricing strategy in July.</p> <p>Ongoing stakeholder engagement.</p>	On track	<p>Tight programme timeline with little contingency for any further loss of time.</p> <p>White Horse Hill - A shorter experience has reopened for visitors to walk a part of the Hooker Valley Track since the 2nd bridge closed last month. The popular Sealy Tarns/ Meueller Hut day walks remain open so paid parking will continue for 25/26 at this site.</p>

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June 2025 – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) projects Monthly progress report

Project name	Description	Funded years	Budget	Progress over the month	Next major milestone	Progress RAG status	Any risks or delays
Paid Parking Pilot	To pilot paid parking at three South Island visitor hotspots to help manage visitor pressure and support conservation.	2024/25 to 2026/27	\$3.78m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for Proposals (RFP) for parking hardware and services closed and evaluation started. Request for Tenders (RFT) for White Horse Hill engineering services closed and evaluation started. Pricing strategy work is ongoing. Local stakeholder engagement has started at all three trial sites. 	Award contract for parking hardware and services in August. Award contract for White Horse Hill engineering services in July. Procurement planning for construction services at Dolomite Point signed off and construction RFT commenced. Complete pricing strategy in July.	On track	Tight programme timeline with little contingency. White Horse Hill delivery is now planned to commence 1 Dec 2025 (originally planned for October): a slight delay due to extended stakeholder engagement on traffic management issues and solutions. The project overall is still on track.

July 2025 – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) projects Monthly progress report

Project name	Description	Funded years	Budget	Progress over the month	Next major milestone	Progress RAG status	Any risks or delays
Paid Parking Pilot	To pilot paid parking at three South Island visitor hotspots to help manage visitor pressure and support conservation.	2024/25 to 2026/27	\$3.78m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract negotiation underway with preferred supplier for parking hardware and services. BECA have been awarded the contract for White Horse Hill (WHH) professional engineering services. Concept design work has started. Submission deadline is closed for first stage of stakeholder engagement. Proposed parking price strategy finalised ready for public release in August. Construction RFT for Dolomite Point southern carpark is publicly advertised on GETS. 	Award contract for parking hardware and services in August. Release second stage engagement collateral to stakeholders. Complete three onsite public drop-in sessions. Evaluation and award of construction contract for Dolomite Point southern carpark. Concept design options developed for WHH.	On track	Constrained programme timeline with no contingency for any loss of time.

August 2025 – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) projects Monthly progress report

Project name	Description	Funded years	Budget	Progress over the month	Next major milestone	Progress RAG status	Any risks or delays
Paid Parking Pilot	<i>To pilot paid parking at three South Island visitor hotspots to help manage visitor pressure and support conservation.</i>	2024/25 to 2026/27	\$3.78m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preferred supplier for parking hardware and services has completed concept designs, schedule of prices and commenced detailed design. Expect design and build contract and services contract to be signed the first week in September. Completed onsite public sessions at Dolomite Point and Franz Josef. Stakeholder submissions have closed. 	White Horse Hill short term concept design finalised and shared with stakeholders. Complete second stage engagement with White Horse Hill stakeholders with an onsite public session. Detailed design of parking hardware, including signage and structural engineer approval for all carparks.	Delay risk	Paid parking implementation at Dolomite Point and Franz Josef delayed to December due to contract finalisation and preferred vendor's 12-week lead time to design, construct, install and commission parking equipment. There is a risk that parking hardware detailed design may identify a need for structural foundations, and further delay implementation.

September 2025 – International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) projects Monthly progress report

Project name	Description	Funded years	Budget	Progress over the month	Next major milestone	Progress RAG status	Any risks or delays
Paid Parking Pilot	<i>To pilot paid parking at three South Island visitor hotspots to help manage visitor pressure and support conservation.</i>	2024/25 to 2026/27	\$3.78m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executed contract for parking design, build and services (Stellar). Pricing strategy for Dolomite Point and Franz Josef approved and publicly released. Proposed pricing for White Horse Hill (Aoraki) released for stakeholder and public feedback. Completed onsite public drop-in session at White Horse Hill. Stakeholder submissions are open until 22 October. 	Finalise signage design and permit processes across all sites. Vendor building of paid parking systems and hardware (Stellar). Complete temporary traffic management plans and staff training for White Horse Hill. Confirm pricing strategy for White Horse Hill. Secure all legal and permissions and building consent exemptions for infrastructure work.	Delay risk	Implementation delayed to December for Dolomite Point and Franz Josef due to contract finalisation and vendor's 12 week lead time for equipment commissioning.

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