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████████████████████
26 January 2026

DOC National Office
Conservation House
18-21 Manners St
Wellington 6011
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-5876

Tēnā koe ██████

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1892 (OIA) request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 24 November 2025.

You asked for a range of documents relating to the introduction of new parking fees at tourist destinations across New Zealand. DOC does not hold information on what councils or private operators have done in terms of introducing parking fees at other tourism destinations across the country. You will need to contact them directly for this information.

Your specific requests and our responses as they relate to DOC parking fees are listed below.

1. A list of all tourist destinations where new parking fees have been introduced since 1 January 2023, including:

- **Location name**
- **Managing authority (e.g. council, DOC, private contractor)**
- **Date the fee was implemented**
- **Current parking fee structure (e.g. hourly / daily rates)**

Prior to December 2025, DOC destinations did not have fees for carparking. The only exception is the long-standing private carpark at Milford Sound, operated by Milford Sound Tourism.

However, since mid-December 2025, DOC is piloting paid parking in three South Island locations. The locations are Dolomite Point Punakaiki, Franz Josef, and White Horse Hill in Aoraki/Mt Cook.

In summary, the rates being piloted are \$5 per hour for all three carparks: with a \$20 per day charge for Punakaiki and Franz Josef carparks, and \$25 per day at White Horse Hill carparks.

2. Copies of all reports, business cases, consultation documents, or impact assessments used to justify the introduction of these parking fees.

DOC has released documents, through a previous OIA response, about DOC's paid parking pilot that contains the information within the scope of your request. This information is currently publicly available and can be found by accessing the following links: [oiad-4682-response.pdf](#) and [oiad-4682-attachment-1.pdf](#).

3. Details of any public consultation processes, including:

- **Dates of consultation**
- **Number of submissions received**
- **Summary of public feedback**

Details of the consultation process run by DOC for the paid parking pilot, and a summary of all submissions can be found on our website. I refer you to the following link: [Paid parking pilot programme: Our work](#).

This includes the engagement reports from the two phases of consultation (refer to the links below):

- i) [Microsoft Word - Paid Parking Pilot Engagement Report Phase 1 2025 redacted](#)
- ii) [Final engagement report on paid parking](#)

4. Any equity impact assessments conducted, particularly relating to:

- **Low-income communities**
- **Local residents**
- **Visitors without access to public transport**

No equity impact assessments were conducted for DOC's paid parking pilot. However, the two-phase consultation process in conjunction with submissions were key in understanding local equity issues.

Submissions from local residents led to the development of a permit process, with permits for locals (within the relevant district boundaries) set at \$10 per year. This allows unlimited access during a given year. Other members of the public can purchase an annual permit for \$60. The low cost for residents takes account of their need to have easy access to community spaces and businesses, as well as considering lower income levels on the West Coast.

5. Information showing how the revenue generated from these parking fees is being used or allocated.

Decisions on how DOC's paid parking revenue will be spent have yet to be made. However, it is currently expected that the revenue initially will need to cover the costs of constructing and operating those carparks. Other than this, we can advise that DOC is not intending to ringfence the funding for specific matters.

6. Any contracts or agreements with private parking enforcement companies related to these sites.

The agreement with Stellar is released to you in part. Some information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a), and 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA – to protect privacy and to protect information that would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the third party, respectively.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on DOC's website.

[REDACTED]

Nāku noa, nā



Catherine Wilson
Director Heritage and Visitors
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai