



Photo: Cars parked in Franz Josef car park Source: Internal Department of Conservation

Franz Josef – Paid car park pilot

We plan to introduce a paid car park pilot.

Introduction

We are seeking feedback on how DOC should manage the paid parking pilot at the Franz Josef carpark. The pilot will take place, beginning summer of 2025/2026, for nine months as a way for visitors to give back to the places they enjoy.

This car park is at the beginning of the popular Franz Josef Glacier/ Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere Walk that attracts visitors to the area.

Tell us what you think before 19 June 2025

Please have a read of the information provided below. If you would like to provide any feedback, please contact the project team at paidcarparking@doc.govt.nz or call 0800 ASK DOC (0800 275 362).



Photo: Franz Josef car park entrance. Source: Internal Department of Conservation

Paid parking hardware

Paid parking requires the design and installation of specialist equipment to collect payments and monitor use. DOC has requested proposals from the market to provide, design and installation services, this process is ongoing. DOC expects to confirm a provider by August 2025.

Pricing

Paid parking rates will be based on market research, data analysis and the completion of a parking pricing strategy. The pricing strategy considers what is a reasonable rate, when the rates apply and who the rates apply to. The strategy is in development and will be shared with the local community for feedback in August.

At this stage the pricing strategy is considering:

- A free parking period for vehicles making drop offs/pick-ups or short stays
- Fee structure options including hourly rates, fixed length of stay, daily rates and multi-day rates
- Options for charging based on vehicle category including buses and motorbikes
- When the pricing should be in effect, including off peak pricing options and time of day options
- How to accommodate local use.



Paid parking area sign from Milford Sound.
Photo source: myqueenstowndiary.com/Queenstown-to-milford-sound/

Timeline

The table below shows the actions and timeline of the project

Action	Date
Initial stakeholder engagement	May / June
Draft pricing strategy	July
Update stakeholders with paid car park pricing structure.	August
Stakeholders provide feedback	August
Finalise Franz Josef paid car park pricing and advise stakeholders	September
Implementation of paid parking	October 2025
Seek stakeholder feedback during paid parking pilot	Time to be confirmed
Assessment of pilot and decision to introduce paid parking services at other DOC sites and continue paid parking at Franz Josef and the other pilot sites	July 2026

Background

In 2018, over 750,000 people visited the Franz Josef Glacier Valley. It is the third most visited natural attraction in New Zealand. Visitor numbers dropped significantly during COVID but are now recovering towards pre-COVID levels. Access into the valley is important for the visitor economy of the West Coast and New Zealand.

DOC is trialling paid parking at two other high-use sites in Te Waipounamu; Dolomite Point on the West Coast, and White Horse Hill car park at Aōraki/Mount Cook National Park in Canterbury. Conversations with stakeholders at these locations are also underway.

Paid parking at the three sites will be piloted for a nine-month period from October 2025 to late June 2026. DOC will use the findings of the pilot period to inform decisions about the possible introduction of paid parking services at other DOC sites and the continuation of paid parking at the pilot sites.