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Submission for Submission Form - Draft Annual Plan 2026- 27

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Full Name

Isaac McIntyre

Organisation

Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Waikato Region) 1999
Incorporated

Phone

027 363 4350

Email

imcintyre@fedfarm.org.nz

Address

444 Anglesea Street
Hamilton

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

No

Should we move the Awakino Transfer Station to Mōkau?

My feedback on the Awakino Transfer Station

Do you have any feedback on the Draft Annual Plan 2026-27?

Yes

My feedback on the Draft Annual Plan 2026-27

SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE

WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ

Submission on: Draft Annual Plan 2026-27

Waitomo District Council

Date: 30 April 2026

Submission by: FEDERATED FARMERS

WAIKATO PROVINCE

Address for Service: ISAAC MCINTYRE

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

P 027 363 4350

E incintyre@fedfarm.org.nz

Waikato Province of Federated Farmers welcomes this opportunity to submit on the Draft Annual Plan document for 2026-27, with inflation-adjusted fees and activities where the cost recovery paid by the people using the services is reduced on rate payers.

Federated Farmers acknowledge any submissions from individual members of our organisation.

Federated Farmers understands that Waitomo District Council has several aims for the Draft Fees & Charges 2026/27:

- Increase Fees and Charges for Building Consents by 5%
- Increase in resource Consent Fees
- Increase total rates by 6.2%

Submission:

1. Federated Farmers supports the Council using fees and charges as a method for cost-recovery for several services, when these are paid directly by those who are using these services.

2. Whilst Federated Farmers supports reduced rates by implementing 'user pays' on certain services; what funding is the council using to improve hazard resilience, particularly where slips are isolating parts of the district after storm events. It is not clear what and where the Council is spending money to improve hazard resilience.

INFLATION-ADJUSTED AND REVENUE AND FINANCING POLICY FEES ADJUSTMENT

Federated Farmers accepts that inflation adjustment needs to occur with some fees and charges to reflect the increased inflation-driven costs of delivering these services. Councils are faced with rates caps therefore some fees and charges may increase beyond inflation to reduce the pressure on general rates where those rates funds were previously funding partially those 'user pays' services.

This aligns with the Council's Revenue and Financing Policy.

Federated Farmers acknowledges inflation as being 3.1%.

Federated Farmers acknowledges that fee increase beyond

inflation of 3.1% should be representative of cost recovery moving away from rates partially funding 'user pays' services and resulting in a shift that recognises 'user pays'.

Submission:

3. That adjustments intended to address inflation are not higher than actual inflation experienced. Furthermore, the increases beyond inflation to achieve a 'user pays' model need to be fair and reasonable for cost recovery.

BUILDING CONSENT FEES

Federated Farmers notes that building consent fees for processing have increased by 5% due to an external provider on charging these costs.

The fee increase is 1.9% more than baseline inflation of 3.1% which is a reasonable increase. Federated Farmers is neutral on this increase.

RESOURCE CONSENTS

Federated Farmers notes that resource consent fees have increased between \$5 – 25\$ depending on the position of the person associated with planning i.e senior planner or team leader etc. This increase is reasonable and Federated Farmers is neutral on the increases.

DOG FEES

Farmers value and manage their dogs well, and dog management is a self-regulating aspect of farming. Dogs are part of the family, and a valuable asset to the farm business. It is in a farmers' best interest to manage their dogs. Farmers spend many hours training their dogs, and bad behaviour like being aggressive to animals or people is dealt with quickly. Farm dogs are contained in their kennels or chained up at night, and because of the large size of farms, dogs are contained on the property, they do not roam the streets, and barking rarely annoys the neighbours. If a dog does stray, neighbours are quick to recognise the dog and call the owner.

Federated Farmers is neutral on the Council's proposal to increase dog fees by \$2 per Rural dog

Submission: _____

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.