

Fees and Charges

2025 to 2026



Council charges and recovers approved fees for any services it provides — all fees are outlined in our schedule of fees and charges.



PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

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Pricing Policy

Sections 608-610 of the Local Government Act 1993 authorise Council to charge and recover fees for any service it provides apart from services for which the charging of a fee is prohibited. Council may waive all or part of a fee unless it is a fee regulated directly by the State Government. In determining whether a fee should be charged for a service Council will consider a number of principles, firstly, whether the service provides a public benefit or a private benefit.

A 'public' service is one where there is a general benefit to the community and where there is limited opportunity of collecting a fee, for example, roads and parks.

A 'private' service is one which provides a discernible private benefit to persons and which offers an opportunity of collecting a fee, for example processing a rezoning application. Where a service generates a private benefit then recovery of costs through a fee is appropriate.

Pricing Methods

Fees and charges made by Council will be classified according to the pricing structures as outlined below. Full cost pricing will apply to all of Council's fees and charges, except in the circumstances outlined in the alternative pricing structures.

Full cost pricing

Council will recover all direct and indirect costs of the service (including on-costs, overheads and depreciation of assets employed).

Partial cost pricing

Council will recover less than the full cost (as defined above).

Partial cost pricing may be used if shared benefits are derived from the provision of the service that accrue to the community as a whole as well as to individual users. It may also be applied where charging full cost recovery pricing will result in widespread evasion.

The price structure may also be used to stimulate demand for a service in the short term, although foregoing full cost recovery must be for a defined term only.

Statutory pricing

The price of this service is determined by legislation and dependent on that price, Council may or may not recover its full costs, but has no discretion to do so.

Statutory fees and charges are not required to follow the same approval process as other fees and charges as Council is not responsible for setting the price.

The release date for statutory fees and charges varies dependent on the governing body and often does not align with Council's time frame for releasing its fees and charges each year, in this instance Council will endeavor to update the fee or charge once pricing for the relevant period is made available.

DISCLAIMER: Where a fee (or charge) is a statutory one and where the amount is set outside of Council, then the actual statutory fee (or charge) shall prevail if it is different to the fee (or charge) contained within this schedule.

Pricing Methods (continued)

Market pricing

The price of the service is determined by examining alternative prices of surrounding service providers (this also may or may not recover the full cost of the service).

This pricing structure should apply in cases where the service is in competition with that provided by another council, agency or commercial provider and there is consequent pressure to set a price that will attract adequate usage of the service.

Market pricing should also apply where a service is predominantly provided for Council's in- house use, but sale to external markets will defray costs.

Free (zero priced)

Some services may be provided free of charge and the whole cost determined as a community service obligation and may fall within the class of a public good. This price structure may be used where the services provide a broad community benefit; and/or it is impractical or inconceivable to charge for the service on a user basis.

This price structure may also apply where the service is a minor part of the overall operation of Council and the potential for revenue is minimal.

Name	Description	Year 24/25 Fee (incl. GST)	Year 25/26 Fee (excl. GST)	Year 25/26 GST	Year 25/26 Fee (incl. GST)	Unit	Legislation	Pricing Policy
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Port Stephens Council

Environmental Services

Biosecurity Weed Matter

Administration Fees

Biosecurity Undertaking re-inspection		\$78.00	\$81.00	\$0.00	\$81.00	Per inspection		Full cost pricing
Biosecurity Direction re-inspection		\$155.00	\$160.50	\$0.00	\$160.50	Per inspection		Full cost pricing
Permit to move Biosecurity matter	Application for permit	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$0.00	\$720.00		Biosecurity Regulation 2017 Schedule 5	Statutory pricing
Certificate as to weed control notices, expenses and charges on land	Application for Certificate	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00		Biosecurity Regulation 2017 Schedule 5	Statutory pricing

Onsite Weed Control

Regional weed control works		\$102.24	\$105.82	\$0.00	\$105.82	Per officer per hour		Full cost pricing
Chemicals		At cost						Full cost pricing
		Min. Fee: \$92.00						
Plant		\$97.00	\$100.50	\$0.00	\$100.50	Per plant item per hour		Full cost pricing
Signage notification on seized matter		At Cost						Full cost pricing
Council Labour cost		\$134.00	\$139.00	\$0.00	\$139.00	Per officer per hour		Full cost pricing

Name	Description	Year 24/25 Fee (incl. GST)	Year 25/26 Fee (excl. GST)	Year 25/26 GST	Year 25/26 Fee (incl. GST)	Unit	Legislation	Pricing Policy
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Tree Management

Application for tree removal/pruning permit		\$133.00	\$138.00	\$0.00	\$138.00	Per application		Full cost pricing
Review of application for tree removal/pruning permit		\$133.00	\$138.00	\$0.00	\$138.00	Per application		Full cost pricing
Tree Hazard Assessment by Arborist		\$211.00	\$218.50	\$0.00	\$218.50	Per site up to 5 trees - \$25 per additional tree		Full cost pricing

Natural Area Management

Nest Box Installation	Purchase and installation of Nest Box	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	Per nest box		Market pricing
Tree Planting	Purchase and planting of tree	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	Per tree		Market pricing
Bush regeneration works	Fee introduced in 2025/2026.	\$0.00	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00	Per Hour		Market pricing

Ngioka Nursery

Tube Stock					Up to \$5	Per plant		Market pricing
Small Pot Plant					Up to \$10	Per plant		Market pricing
Medium Pot Plant					Up to \$20	Per plant		Market pricing
Large Pot Plant					Up to \$40	Per plant		Market pricing



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