

Submission form – Exploring charging for access to some public conservation land

The Government is seeking feedback on their proposal to charge for access to some public conservation land.

This is the submission template for responding to the discussion document *Exploring charging for access to some public conservation land*.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) seeks your comments by **5pm on Friday 28 February 2025**.

Please make your submission as follows:

1. Fill out your details under the “Your name and organisation” heading and, if applicable, check the boxes underneath on privacy and confidentiality.
2. Fill out your responses to the discussion document questions. Your submission may respond to any or all of the questions. Where possible, please provide relevant facts, figures, data, examples and documents to support your views.
3. All submissions are subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and can be released, if requested, under that Act. If you have specific reasons for wanting parts, or all, of your submission withheld, please note these on page 2. DOC will consider them when making any assessment about the release of submissions. Please refer to DOC’s privacy statement for further information.¹
4. Submit your comments by:
 - a. emailing your submission as a Microsoft Word document or searchable PDF to accesschargingconsultation@doc.govt.nz
 - b. mailing your submission to us at:

Department of Conservation
PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143
Attention: Access charging consultation submissions

Please direct any questions that you have in relation to the submissions process to accesschargingconsultation@doc.govt.nz.

To check the boxes in the template, please double click on box, then select ‘checked’.



Submission on *Exploring charging for access to some public conservation land*

[To check the boxes above: Double click on box, then select 'checked']

Name	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Contact details	
Please tell us what kind of submitter you are.	<input type="checkbox"/> Interested individual <input type="checkbox"/> Local government (or related entity) <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation group <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism business <input type="checkbox"/> Iwi, hapū or Māori organization <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit or club <input type="checkbox"/> Industry association <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Release of information

Please let us know if you would like any part of your submission to be kept confidential.

- I would like to be contacted before the release or use of my submission in the summary of submissions that will be published by DOC after the consultation.
- I would like my name, or any other personal information, to be kept confidential in any summary of submissions or external disclosures.
- I would like my submission (or identified parts of my submission) to be kept confidential, and have stated below my reasons and grounds under the Official Information Act that I believe apply, for consideration by DOC.

<p>I would like my submission (or identified parts of my submission) to be kept confidential because [Insert text]</p> <p>My reasons and the grounds under the Official Information Act that I believe apply are [Insert text]</p>

Responses to questions

[To check the boxes below: Double click on box, then select 'checked']

Part 3 – Issues

1.	<p>Do you agree with the issues and how they have been presented?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p>Add any comments below.</p>
2.	<p>a. Have any issues been missed?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> No comment</p> <p>Add any comments below.</p> <p>b. Do you have any examples or data that demonstrate your view on the issues?</p>

Part 4 – Access charging – part of the solution?

3.	<p>a. Do you support the Government introducing the ability to charge for access to some parts of public conservation land?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p>b. Why or why not?</p> <p>c. Could you share any evidence or data that has informed your opinion?</p>
4.	<p>Are there any international examples available that you think the Government could learn from?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> No comment</p> <p>Add any comments below.</p>

5.	<p>Do you agree with the assessment of voluntary and concessionaire-based access charges?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p>Add any comments below.</p>

Part 5 – Who should pay an access charge?

6.	<p>To what extent do you support:</p> <p>a. Option A: Charging everyone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p>Add any comments below.</p>
	<p>b. Option B: Charging everyone but charging New Zealanders less than international visitors</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p>Add any comments below.</p>
	<p>c. Option C: Charging only international visitors</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p>Add any comments below.</p>
7.	<p>a. Is there anything else the Government should consider when thinking about who should pay an access charge?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> No comment</p> <p>Add any comments below.</p>
	<p>b. Are there any other groups the Government should consider charging for access to some public conservation land?</p>

Yes No Unsure No comment

Add any comments below.

Part 6 – Where should access charges be used?

8. a. Do you agree that the use of access charges should be limited to some areas of public conservation land?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree Unsure

Add any comments below.

b. If you strongly agree or agree, where should these places be?

9. a. We have identified the types of places where access charges could be effective, which may include one or more of the following features:

- Places facing unsustainable pressure from visitors
- Places popular with international visitors
- Places with high biodiversity and scenic values
- Places where user groups are defined

Do you agree with the features identified for where access charging could be used?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree Unsure

Add any comments below.

b. Are there any additional features we should consider?

Yes No Unsure No comment

Add any comments below.

10. Are there any features of a place that would mean access charging should not be introduced there?

Yes No Unsure No comment

Add any comments below.

11. To what extent do you support the 'parks pass' approach?
 Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose Unsure
 Add any comments below.

Part 7 – How should the additional revenue be used?

12. To what extent do you support:
 a. Option A: More of the money should be invested at the place it is collected in
 Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose Unsure
 Add any comments below.

b. Option B: More of the money should be invested within the region it is collected in
 Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose Unsure
 Add any comments below.

c. Option C: Invest the money in priority projects across New Zealand, regardless of where it is collected
 Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose Unsure
 Please add any additional comments below.

d. Explain why this is your preferred approach or combination of approaches.

13. Are there any international approaches to spending money from access charging that you think the Government should consider?
 Yes No Unsure No comment

	Add any additional comments below as to why this approach should be considered.

Part 8 – Working with Iwi (and Hapū)

14.	How can the Government best meet its Treaty obligations in designing and implementing access charging?

Part 9 – Other design questions

15.	Some groups other than the DOC manage land with conservation values. Do you think these groups should be allowed to charge people to access this land, if it meets certain features in Part 7, to help pay for upkeep and improvements? <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure Add any comments below.