

Sharing the Cost of Fencing Next to a Council Reserve

Many of our neighbourhood parks share common boundaries with private home owners and as these fences age we need to get together to discuss the need for replacement.

Council anticipates the need for replacement and recognises its responsibility to meet its legal obligations as a good neighbour.

This fact sheet provides information on the Council's contribution to replacement and applying to share the cost of fencing.

Will the Council contribute to the cost of a new fence on a reserve boundary?

In some cases the Council will contribute to the cost of common boundary fences where the neighbouring property is a park or other recreation facility.

Check to see whether there is a fencing covenant on your property title which exempts the Council from contributing to the cost of the fence.

How much does the Council contribute?

Where the Council is legally obligated to contribute 50% of boundary fencing costs you can expect the following:

If the fence is to be installed by a contractor, the Council will contribute the lesser of:

- Half the value of the supplied written quote; or
- \$70 per lineal metre (half of the industry total costs per lineal meter) plus GST.

If you, as the property owner, are to install the fence, the Council will contribute 50% of the costs of fencing materials for the Council approved design up to a maximum of \$70 per lineal metre.



Do we have to get the Council's approval before building the fence?

Yes. Please do not start work until Council staff have inspected the site and notified you of their decision regarding a contribution.

If you have not obtained Council agreement before you start your fence, the Fencing Act 1978 states that the Council is not required to contribute towards the costs of the fence.

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What is the process for claiming a contribution?

Firstly, check a current copy of your property title to see whether there is a fencing covenant registered that stops the Council from contributing. You will need to provide the copy of the title with your application.

Find out how much the work is likely to cost:

- If the fence is being built by a contractor, get a quote for the work
- If you are building the fence, provide a quote for materials and the boundary measurements.

Complete the Council's "Application For Fencing Contribution" form and send this to the Council with:

- A current copy of the Record of Title
- Photographic evidence that the fence needs replacing
- The required quote.

What happens next?

A member of the Council's Greenspace Team will consider the application and inspect the site.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application by the Greenspace Team.

When is the money paid out?

If the work is being carried out by a building contractor, the builder must invoice the Council directly for its share, quoting the applicant's address.

If the fence is being built by the property owner, the Council will pay the applicant on provision of copies of receipts for fencing materials purchased relating to the application.

Where can I access a copy of the Fencing Act?

Access is available online on the New Zealand Legislation website: legislation.govt.nz



Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.