



# Proposed charges at the Murupara Refuse Transfer Station

The Murupara Refuse Transfer Station on Harakeke Road is used by residents and businesses in Murupara to drop off excess waste, where it is sorted. We recycle and re-use as much as possible, and the remainder is transported to Whakatāne and then to a landfill in the Waikato region.

It's one of two remaining refuse transfer stations of its size in Aotearoa New Zealand that doesn't charge users. But this doesn't mean it's free.

## Who pays for it?

### *Mā wai ngā utu e whakaea?*

- It costs approximately \$400,000 a year to run the refuse transfer station. These costs cover general operations, maintenance, landfill taxes and handling and transport of household and commercial waste, recycling and greenwaste.
- Targeted rates for kerbside collections only cover the cost of dealing with waste picked up at the kerbside, they do not contribute to the costs of running the refuse transfer station.
- Currently, general rates waste contributions from Murupara/Galatea ratepayers go towards funding the facility, but they do not cover the full costs. The costs are being subsidised by ratepayers throughout the Whakatāne District.

## Why are we proposing to add user charges?

### *He aha mātau e marohi nei i ngā utu kaiwhakamahi?*

- Aotearoa New Zealand has a landfill problem. According to the Ministry for the Environment, in 2022, more than 3.6 million tonnes of waste material was sent to levied landfills throughout the country. That's enough waste to fill about 1800 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- It's also very expensive to manage.
- It currently costs almost \$400 per tonne to manage landfill waste. The cost of dealing with waste is continuing to rise – and so is the need to reduce the amount of waste we produce due to global warming.
- Continuing to provide a 'free' facility is not financially viable. We simply can't afford it.
- Businesses and people from outside the Whakatāne District use this transfer station, which means ratepayers are subsidising them too.
- By adding a charge, users may feel inclined to reduce their waste, and it makes it fairer for ratepayers. Currently, people and businesses producing the waste are not paying the costs of dealing with it, and those who do not produce the waste are – that includes ratepayers outside of the Murupara/Galatea area.
- Due to its remote location, the Murupara Transfer Station also costs more per tonne of landfill waste than Whakatāne Transfer Station, which has charges.
- Council's Waste Minimisation Management Plan is in place to educate and encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle. Landfill should be the last resort. Adding charges helps support this.

## How much does it currently cost to send waste to landfill?

### *He aha te utu ināiane ki te tuku atu te para ki te ruapara?*

It costs more than \$230,000 a year to deal with around 600 tonnes of landfill waste alone at the Murupara Transfer Station.

**It costs about \$381 to process one tonne of waste. Here's a breakdown:**



Although it's currently free for users to dump waste, the costs are being paid for by all Whakatāne District ratepayers.

## How much will the charges be?

### *He aha ngā utu?*

The proposed charges will align with the current Whakatāne Refuse Transfer Station charges.

A full list of the proposed charges is available on our website [whakatane.govt.nz/financial-policies](https://whakatane.govt.nz/financial-policies)

## But won't this just increase illegal dumping?

### *Ka whakatenatena tēnei i te para turekore?*

The amount of reported illegal dumping in the Murupara/Galatea area, where residents can currently dump waste for free, is no lower than anywhere else in the Whakatāne District.

Unfortunately, illegal dumping is a behavioural issue. Those who illegally dump rubbish will likely continue to do so until they realise the impact it has on the environment and the consequences of their actions.



Visit [whakatane.govt.nz/financial-policies](https://whakatane.govt.nz/financial-policies) by 5pm Friday, 24 April 2024 to tell us what you think about introducing charges at the Murupara Transfer Station.