

Title: 26-137 Price Review Solid Waste Rural Rubbish Stickers
Section: Solid Waste
Prepared by: Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities
Meeting Date: Wednesday 3 June 2026

Legal: No	Financial: Yes	Significance: Medium
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Report to FINANCE & PERFORMANCE/WHAKAHAERE PŪTEA ME ŌNA HUA Committee for decision

PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to increase the cost of rural rubbish stickers in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), ensuring that it reflects inflationary pressures of the cost of waste disposal.

SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

At its meeting on 18 February 2026, the Finance and Performance Committee resolved to consult on the Draft Fees and Charges for the 2026/27 financial year. Consultation was undertaken during March 2026 and closed on 30 March. The overall approach was to adjust most fees in line with CPI, with targeted increases above inflation where required to improve cost recovery.

Gisborne District Council (Council) considered the consultation feedback on 22 April 2026 (Report 26-94), noting that three submissions were received, and subsequently adopted the amended fees and charges. With limited exceptions, the adopted fees reflect CPI-based adjustments applied to the previous year's charges.

The annual price review for solid waste stickers was not included in this process due to Council's focus on completing the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) and progressing work on the proposed Regional Transfer Station and Resource Recovery Centre.

Current revenue from solid waste services, particularly rural sticker charges, does not cover the cost of service delivery. These charges have not been reviewed for approximately six years, during which time costs have increased significantly, resulting in an ongoing funding shortfall.

It is proposed that rural sticker fees are increased in line with CPI as an interim measure to partially offset rising costs, while recognising affordability constraints. Applying CPI at approximately 4.3% per annum over six years would increase the blue sticker price from \$2.80 to \$3.50, and the pink sticker price from \$10.00 to \$12.50.

CPI adjustments alone will not address the structural gap between revenue and the full cost of waste services. The proposed increase is therefore intended as an interim measure while broader work is progressed through the WMMP and the next Long-Term Plan (LTP).

This programme of work will review the end-to-end waste system, including service levels, infrastructure, supply chain arrangements, and pricing. It is expected to result in more substantive changes over time to improve financial sustainability, system efficiency, and environmental outcomes.

Subject to Council's approval, the proposed new fee will be released for public consultation so that public views can be considered before a final decision is made.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That the Finance & Performance/Whakahaere Pūtea me Ōna Hua Committee:

- 1. Agrees to consult on the proposed increase of rural rubbish sticker prices - blue sticker price from \$2.80 to \$3.50 (5kg bag), and pink sticker price from \$10.00 to \$12.50 (approximately 0.5 cubic metres of waste).**

Authorised by:

Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities

Keywords: rural rubbish stickers,

BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. Waste management costs in Tairāwhiti are estimated at approximately \$650 per tonne, driven by transport and transfer costs, with landfill disposal alone accounting for around \$318 per tonne. Options to deliver more cost-effective and environmentally sustainable waste management are being progressed through the WMMP and LTP, including consideration of a Council owned Regional Transfer Station and Resource Recovery Centre.
2. In the meantime, Council continues to deliver existing waste management services across both urban and rural areas. Councillors will be familiar with the orange, pink and blue sticker system.
3. Orange Stickers are used in the urban area. The price of these stickers is set by Waste Management Ltd, with Council on-selling these stickers as well as allocating them to ratepayers through the rating system.
4. In contrast, rural areas use a different approach, with blue and pink stickers. The pricing for these rural stickers is set directly by Council, and they have not been reviewed for 6 years.
5. Blue rubbish stickers are currently priced at \$2.80 per sticker and cover up to 5kg of waste.
6. Pink stickers are currently priced at \$10.00 per sticker and cover up to 0.5 cubic meters of waste. The intent of the pink sticker system is to enable rural communities to dispose of larger volumes of waste than the standard 5kg increments, i.e. car boots, Utes, and small trailers. Work is currently underway to develop and implement clearer rules and guidelines around the volumes and types of waste that can be disposed of using pink stickers.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO me ngā KŌWHIRINGA

7. Rubbish sticker fees have not been adjusted in line with inflation for approximately six years, while the cost of providing waste management services has continued to increase at least in line with CPI. As a result, the gap between revenue and cost has widened over time, and the longer pricing adjustments are deferred, the more significant this gap becomes.
8. The reasons for the lack of adjustment are reflective of the complexity of solid waste management as a Council service. Achieving the right balance between environmental outcomes, service levels, and cost efficiency requires a comprehensive system-wide review, which takes time to develop and implement. This work is now progressing through the WMMP and associated planning processes.
9. At this stage, a detailed analysis of the cost recovery required to fully fund stickered waste services has not yet been completed.
10. In the interim, it would be appropriate to adjust fees in line with CPI as a minimum to prevent further erosion of cost recovery, as set out in the table below.

Item	Current Price	CPI-Adjusted Price (6 yrs @ 4.2%)	Rounded Price
Blue sticker	\$2.80 per 5 kg	\$3.58	\$3.50
Pink sticker	\$10.00 per 100 kg	\$12.78	\$12.50

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation.

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan.

Overall Process: **High** Significance

This Report: **High** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy.

Overall Process: **Low** Significance

This Report: **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district.

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities.

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue.

Overall Process: **Medium** Significance

This Report: **Medium** Significance

11. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Medium** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

TREATY COMPASS ANALYSIS

Kāwanatanga

12. Council will uphold its governance responsibilities by applying a further consultation consultative procedure, ensuring open and transparent processes for decision-making. The consultation process will be accessible to the public and include tangata whenua, allowing them to participate meaningfully.

Rangatiratanga

13. The report recognises the importance of engaging with the community, including tangata whenua, during the consultation process. Clear guidance around services that hold cultural significance acknowledges and supports Māori values and authority in matters of importance.

Oritetanga

14. Council's fees and charges are grounded in a user-pays principle that supports fairness and aligns with its Revenue and Financing Policy. This report acknowledges affordability as a key consideration, reflecting a commitment to equitable outcomes for the community. By maintaining minimal changes beyond inflationary adjustments, Council ensures that Māori and all residents have fair access to services without undue financial burden. The inclusion of targeted rates along with careful balance between public good and individual benefit further supports equity.

Whakapono

15. Council's approach to the 2026/27 Fees and Charges overall reflects an awareness of and respect for tikanga and cultural values. Feedback received during previous consultation was acknowledged with care, and services with cultural significance were considered thoughtfully. The same process will apply to further consultation.

TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA

16. The CPI adjusted fee increase proposed is in line with the 3YP. No specific engagement has occurred with Tangata Whenua on the pricing of rural waste disposal stickers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI

17. The proposed fee increase will be publicly notified so that public submissions can be considered by Council before making a final decision.

CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI – ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga

18. There are no implications to climate change.

CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO

Financial/Budget

19. Adjusting the price of rubbish stickers in line with CPI is fiscally responsible and consistent with Council's financial management approach.

Legal

20. The proposed increase complies with legal requirements.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

21. The proposed increase is not inconsistent with Council Policy and Plans.

RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

22. There are no major risks arising from a CPI-based adjustment to the price of rural rubbish stickers.

NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
3 June 2026	Council decision to approve, for consultation, a CPI-based adjustment to the price of rural rubbish stickers.	
Mid-June 2026 – Mid-July 2026	Public consultation.	
30 September 2026	Final decision.	