

4. STATUTORY INFRINGEMENT FEE INCREASES

RR 8971

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Corporate Plan Output: 8.5.3 Parking Enforcement	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of pending increases to the level of infringement fees pertaining to parking offences.

BACKGROUND

On 8 December 1998 the Land Transport Act was passed into law. Schedule 4, Part 1 (Parking Offences) to the Act details statutory increases to infringement fees for parking offences, as follows:

Table 1

Offence	Infringement Fee	Current Fee
1. Any parking offence involving parking on a road in breach of a local authority bylaw, in excess of a period fixed by a meter or otherwise, where the excess time is –		
Not more than 30 minutes	\$12 or such lesser amount as is fixed by the local authority	\$10
More than 30 minutes but not more than 1 hour	\$15 or such lesser amount as is fixed by the local authority	\$14
More than 1 hour but not more than 2 hours	\$21 or such lesser amount as is fixed by the local authority	\$20
More than 2 hours but not more than 4 hours	\$30 or such lesser amount as is fixed by the local authority	\$30
More than 4 hours but not more than 6 hours	\$42 or such lesser amount as is fixed by the local authority	\$34
More than 6 hours	\$57 or such lesser amount as is fixed by the local authority	<i>New</i>

Offence	Infringement Fee	Current Fee
2. (a) Parked on or within 6m of an intersection	\$60	\$40
(b) Parked on or near a pedestrian crossing	\$60	\$40
(c) Parked on broken yellow lines	\$60	\$40
(d) Double parking	\$60	\$40
(e) Inconsiderate parking	\$60	\$40
(f) Parked on a clearway	\$60	\$40
(g) Parked on a bus only lane	\$60	\$40
3. All other parking offences	\$40	\$40

The new infringement fee schedule comes into effect on 1 March 1999. It is worth noting that **fees** for parking offences were **last increased in 1987**.

DISCUSSION

While local authorities have no discretion to alter the infringement fee for offences under Sections 2 and 3 of Table 1 above, they do have discretion in setting the level of fees for offences under Part 1, ie offences relating to parking at an expired meter, and parking in breach of a time limit.

Currently the Council operates an early payment incentive system. Under this system the fee for parking meter and time limit offences is reduced provided payment is made within 14 days of a notice being issued, as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2

Infringement Fee	Fee if Paid Within 14 Days
\$10	\$9
\$14	\$12
\$20	\$17
\$30	\$27
\$34	\$31

Of the major local authorities Christchurch City alone operates an early payment incentive system and on average approximately 25% of people elect to pay within the 14 day period.

The annual cost of early payment incentives is approximately \$25,000. However this is partly offset by savings in stationery, postage and administrative costs amounting to between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year, which would be incurred **if** those people who currently pay offence notices within 14 days instead elected to wait until they received a reminder notice. In the view of the Parking Unit the system also benefits public relations.

Although only some 25% of people currently take advantage of the early payment incentive, the Parking Manager nevertheless considers that on balance the Council should continue to offer this service. In line with this the schedule outlined in Table 3 below is proposed for adoption by the Council:

Table 3

Excess Time	Infringement Fee	Fee if Paid Within 14 Days
Not more than 30 minutes	\$12	\$10
30 minutes to 1 hour	\$15	\$12
1 hour to 2 hours	\$21	\$18
2 hours to 4 hours	\$30	\$27
4 hours to 6 hours	\$42	\$42
More than 6 hours	\$57	\$57

The Council will note that no early payment incentive is proposed where vehicles have been parked at expired meters, or in breach of a time limit, for more than four hours.

The rationale for this is that the fee structure pertaining to offences where vehicles have been overparked for periods in excess of four hours is primarily intended to act as a deterrent to commuter parking, and given this it is considered that providing an early payment incentive in instances where vehicles have been ‘over-parked’ for four hours or more is inappropriate.

Recommendation: That the fee schedule proposed in Table 3 of this report be adopted.