

Introduction of carpark charging

Te Hāwere-a-Maki / Goat Island

Paid parking will be introduced at Te Hāwere-a-Maki / Goat Island from **1 December 2026**.

Before any prices are set, **we would like to hear your views on the proposed pricing and the proposed boundary for local permits.**



Overview

Te Hāwere-a-Maki / Goat Island is New Zealand's first marine reserve and is one of the most popular sites in the North Island, with an estimated 300,000 annual visitors. It has amazing biodiversity, wonderful snorkelling experiences and offers outstanding marine experiences in a stunning natural environment.

However, the popularity of Te Hāwere-a-Maki / Goat Island is putting pressure on this precious site. The Department of Conservation is investing in this location to improve the visitor experience, and plans to use paid parking to help manage congestion and encourage turnover of the limited car parks available.

The revenue raised will be used to provide more funds for conservation regionally and nationally.

Proposed Pricing Structure

General public	\$2.50 for each 30 minutes of parking 10 minutes free period for drop-offs and pick-ups
Local permit	\$10 for annual permit with unlimited access
Concessionaries permit	Commercial tourism operators who hold a valid concession can apply for a parking fee exemption

Proposed boundary for local permits



Learn more and provide feedback

To send feedback: goatispaidparking@doc.govt.nz

To talk with DOC about paid parking at Te Hāwere-a-Maki / Goat Island:

Attend one of our drop-in sessions at
Leigh Community Hall

13 August 3.00pm - 6.00pm

18 August 2:30pm - 5:30pm

Feedback closes 9 September 2026

Frequently asked questions

How will this work?

Cameras will record the number plates of vehicles as they enter and exit the car parks. The pricing structure is designed to encourage people to stay for a few hours as opposed to a full day, allowing more turnover of parking spaces and more people to enjoy the site.

Who will be enforcing the charges?

Cameras will record the number plates of vehicles as they enter and exit the car parks. The company providing paid parking hardware will issue breach notices to vehicles for non-payment.

How much are the breach notices?

A breach notice will start at \$75. A breach notice relies on debt collection for enforcement, similar to the non-payment of DOC's hut or campsite fees.

Will concessionaires need to pay?

Commercial tourism operators with a concession will be able to apply for a permit online to exempt them from parking fees. The application process will require operators to provide evidence of a concession. Details are available on <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/paid-car-parking/>.

Will we have to pay for doing a drop-off or pick-up?

A free parking period of 10 minutes is proposed, which will allow for passenger drop-offs and pick-ups.

How do I get an annual permit?

Eligible local residents can apply for a \$10 permit which allows unlimited access for one vehicle. DOC is interested to hear from locals where the boundaries of that area should be; this will be one of the topics at the drop-in session.

When will you make a decision about pricing?

The final pricing structure will be released in October 2026.

Is it legal to charge for access to conservation land?

Legislation allows DOC to charge users fair and reasonable fees to use our facilities, which includes campsites, backcountry huts and car parks. Facility charges are not access charges.

