

25 August 2025

Paid Parking Team, Department of Conservation
sent by email to: paidcarparking@doc.govt.nz



Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc. Feedback on DOC's Proposed Car Park Pricing

Tēnā koe,

Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc. (FMC) was founded in 1931 and advocates on behalf of over 22,000 New Zealanders, comprising 93 member clubs and associations, and over 1,000 individual supporters, who enjoy outdoor recreation in New Zealand's front and backcountry. We also speak for the large number of other New Zealanders who enjoy our public lands for outdoor recreation.

FMC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Department of Conservation's (DOC) proposals received 7 August 2025 to trial car parking charges at Dolomite Point, Punakaiki and Franz Josef, West Coast, as a precursor to considering extending this initiative to other locations.

Given that DOC has decided to implement these charges, the proposed fee structure appears to be reasonable.

The pilot projects will provide information on the extent to which the charging is revenue positive or not, taking into account the capital cost, and the ongoing operational costs, including resources for permit management and parking fee debt recovery.

As per our White Horse Hill submission, we stress the importance that conservation volunteers who need to use the car parks are issued with permits for their vehicles. There will need to be sufficient DOC resources allocated to ensure that the permit creation can be flexible and prompt to cater quickly for variations in volunteer vehicles and work dates. Volunteers donate their own time and expenditure in the pursuit of activities that support the Department, so should never have to pay car park charges as part of their volunteer mahi.

To implement these changes in a way that provides advance warning to regular and longer term car park users requires a well considered communications plan, potentially involving

- DOC website updates to reference the charges from all tracks, huts and other information points where the carpark could be used
- Providing direct communications to national and regional stakeholders for dissemination to their user groups
- Identifying suitable social media platforms that could reach a wider audience

Nga mihi,

Megan Dimozantos
President, Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ