

Changes to Building & Plumbing Application Fees

On 24 June 2020, Council adopted its 2020/21 Fees and Charges which includes a significant increase to the building and plumbing application fees to ensure:

- Council initiates a move towards full cost recovery on the services it provides to the community. Previously the low cost of fees has resulted in a financial loss to council which is the offset by general revenue funded from the general rates.
- Compliance with the competitive neutrality principles applied to all local governments carrying out significant business activities or activities prescribed under legislation. This ensures Council's fees are competitive with the private industry and not putting the private industry at a disadvantage.

This year Council undertook an extensive review to develop a view of the full cost of delivering services, supported by financial forecasting and processes to establish a recovery of costs for building certification services. This review took into consideration such things as assessment timeframes, administrative components and all staff and on-costs.

To ensure consistency across the organisation, the same method has also been applied to the plumbing services and as such a new fee structure has been implemented.

A list of the commonly utilised fees is detailed below. To view a full list of Fees and Charges, please visit <https://www.whitsunday.qld.gov.au/172/Fees-and-charges>

Fee Name	2020/21 Fee (including GST)
Plumbing & Drainage – New Connections – Standard fee for each new dwelling/duplex (Class 1)	\$1,586
Single Dwelling (Class 1) over 200m ² (note: duplexes & multiple dwellings subject to quote). Includes lodgement fee and up to 5 inspections.	\$3,244
Single Dwelling (Class 1) up to 200m ² (note: duplexes & multiple dwellings subject to quote). Includes lodgement fee and up to 5 inspections.	\$2,162
Minor building works (minor dwelling additions up to 45m ² in floor area). Includes lodgement and up to 2 inspections.	\$1,191
Garages, sheds and carports over 45m ² (Class 10a). Includes lodgement and up to 3 inspections.	\$1,466
Minor building works e.g. pergolas, retaining walls, restumping, reroofs, lawn lockers and garages, carports (where garage/carports do not exceed 45m ² in floor area). Includes lodgement and up to 2 inspections.	\$1,191