

Outcome of consultation

Proposal on fees and levy review

December 2025

Consultation

Between 20 October 2025 and 7 November 2025, the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (the **Board**) sought feedback on its proposed fees and disciplinary and prosecution levy that would apply from 1 April 2026.

Fee reviews are normally conducted on a 3-year cycle. The Board has brought this current review forward a year, as was also done last review cycle. This review considers the 3-year period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

For more information you can read our consultation document [here](#).

Submissions received

The Board thanks those that took the time to submit feedback on the consultation document. It helped the Board make informed decisions about setting the fees and levy.

The Board received 30 submissions on the consultation. 14 submissions agreed with the proposed fees; 4 opposed and 11 were on matters outside what was in the consultation document. One submission was neutral. One industry response, from Master Plumbers, was received.

Summary of responses that agreed with the proposal

Of the submissions received, 14 expressed support for the proposed adjustments to the fees and the \$5 reallocation within the disciplinary and prosecution levy. Submitters generally viewed the changes as reasonable, proportionate, and appropriate in the context of maintaining an effective and sustainable regulatory system.

Submitters who supported the proposal highlighted that: included:

- *No objection to the proposed \$5 levy reallocation*
- *I agree with the proposed alteration to fees and disciplinary and prosecution levy.*
- *Looks good very little change.*

The supportive feedback reinforced to the Board that the proposed changes are broadly understood and accepted by a significant portion of the industry. While the adjustment is modest, submitters recognised that:

- The proposal maintains overall stability in fees, with only targeted refinements designed to support regulatory functions.
- The reallocation within the levy is transparent and purposeful, reflecting the actual distribution of costs across disciplinary and prosecution activity.
- The changes represent a balanced approach to funding, avoiding unnecessary increases while ensuring the Board can continue meeting its statutory responsibilities.

This level of support gave the Board confidence that the refined structure is appropriate for implementation from 1 April 2026 and aligns with practitioner expectations for predictability and fairness in the fees and levy regime.

Summary of responses that disagreed with the proposal

Four submissions opposed the proposed fees and levy changes. Although individual comments differed, several common themes emerged across these submissions:

- **Fees and levies are too expensive.**
Submitters expressed concern about the overall cost of practising in their trade, noting that fees have increased over time and contribute to financial pressure for sole traders and small businesses. Some submitters considered that any change, even a minor reallocation within the disciplinary and prosecution levy, adds to an already high cost base for practitioners.
- **Uncertainty about why the disciplinary and prosecution levy exists.**
A number of submitters questioned the purpose of the levy and what activities it funds. They noted that, from their perspective, disciplinary processes affect only a small proportion of practitioners each year and therefore queried why all practitioners are required to contribute. Some submitters sought greater visibility of how levy funds are used and the rationale for maintaining a levy separate from the annual licence fee.
- **Fees should be comparable to other trades.**
Some submitters suggested that fees and levies should be aligned with those charged in other regulated trades, particularly electrical and building. These submitters felt that differences in fees across the trades can create perceptions of inequity and questioned why plumbing, gasfitting, and drainlaying fees are not more closely aligned with the broader building and construction sector.

Consideration of submitter's concerns

The Board is committed to operating in a cost-effective manner, balancing the resources it needs to efficiently and effectively discharge its obligation to protect public safety against affordability for plumbers, gasfitters, and drainlayers.

Disciplinary and prosecution levy

All of the Board's funding is obtained from the fees and levies paid by practitioners. The Board receives no funding from the government. The Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayer Act 2006 (**Act**) requires the Board to prosecute unauthorised people who carry out restricted plumbing, gasfitting, and drainlaying. The disciplinary and prosecution levy has not changed since the 2023/2024 licensing year when it was reduced by \$25 to \$275.

The Board acknowledges the concerns raised about the overall cost of practising. The Board strives to keep fees as low as possible while ensuring it can meet its statutory obligations, including maintaining public confidence in the competency and conduct of practitioners.

The current proposal does **not** increase total fees or the disciplinary and prosecution levy. It reallocates \$5 within the existing levy to more accurately reflect actual cost distribution between disciplinary and prosecution activities. This refinement ensures the levy structure is transparent and

better aligned with the way costs are incurred, while avoiding any additional financial burden on practitioners.

The Board will continue to monitor its costs, seek efficiencies, and ensure any future fee reviews are evidence-based and proportionate.

Why do I have to pay a levy?

The disciplinary and prosecution levy is required under the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006, which provides for the Board to recover the costs of its disciplinary and prosecution functions. These functions support public health and safety by enabling the Board to investigate complaints, undertake disciplinary action where appropriate, and prosecute serious breaches of the Act.

While only a small proportion of practitioners will ever be subject to disciplinary processes, these activities benefit the entire trades sector by maintaining high professional standards, deterring wrongdoing, and protecting the reputation of the industry.

While the Board does its best to recover the costs of disciplinary action from practitioners who are subject to these processes, it is not always possible. In some cases, costs awarded cannot be recovered, or only a portion can be recouped. The levy therefore ensures the Board can continue to meet its statutory responsibilities even where full cost recovery cannot be achieved.

The Board is committed to providing transparency about how levy funds are used and will continue to report on disciplinary and prosecution activities and associated costs through its Annual Report.

Comparison to other industry regulators

Unlike the Building Practitioners Board and Electrical Workers Registration Board the Board receives no government funding. The Electrical Workers Registration Board receive money from the electricity levy which is used to fund prosecutions of unauthorised people who carry out electrical work. Builders and electricians also get the benefits of having shared support services situated within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The Board also regulates a much smaller number of practitioners, so the Board's costs are spread over fewer people. There are 35,085¹ licensed electrical workers and 27,223² individual licensed building practitioners. That compares with the approximately 9,500 plumbers, gasfitters, and drainlayers required to pay the disciplinary and prosecution levy.

While benchmarking can be informative, fees are set based on the Board's actual cost of delivering its statutory functions, which differ from those of other regulators in scope, scale, and activity levels.

The Board is required to be fully cost-recovered and must ensure that the fees and levy reflect the true cost of registration, licensing, competence assessments, complaints, and disciplinary functions under the Act. Direct comparisons across regulators can therefore be misleading, as each operates under different legislation, regulatory frameworks, and cost drivers.

The Board will continue to monitor other regulatory regimes to ensure its fees remain reasonable and proportionate, while maintaining a focus on transparency, efficiency, and financial sustainability.

¹ As of 30 June 2024.

² As of 30 June 2022.

Outcome

After reviewing the fees and levy model, and considering submissions on the proposal, the Board have agreed that the following fees and levy will be gazetted and effective from 1 April 2025:

Fee or levy	Current fee and levy	New fee and levy (from 1 April 2026)
Annual licence fee (includes exemptions under supervision and provisional licences)	\$100	\$100
Registration	\$350	\$350
Disciplinary and prosecution levy	<u>\$275</u>	<u>\$275</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary Prosecution 	\$205 \$70	\$210 \$65
Examination fees		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration Certifying 	\$330 \$410	\$330 \$410
Trainee certificate	\$65	\$65
Examination reconsideration fee	\$120	\$120
Employer licence fee	Full cost recovery	Full cost recovery
Exemption application fee		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemptions for sanitary plumbing and gasfitting works³ Exemptions from the minimum standards of registration⁴ 	Full cost recovery Full cost recovery	Full cost recovery Full cost recovery
Advanced proficiency assessment application	Full cost recovery	Full cost recovery

Summary

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals who took the time to read and respond to its consultation document. We look forward to working together.

³ Sections 18, 20, and 24 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006.

⁴ Section 52 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006.