

Electricity connection pricing updates – Updated 01.04.26

What you need to know

From 1 April 2026, electricity distributors across New Zealand are updating how connection charges are presented in customer quotes.

These changes have been introduced by the Electricity Authority to improve transparency and consistency in how connection charges are explained.

For customers requesting a new connection or upgrade, this means quotes will provide clearer information about the work required and how connection charges relate to your project.

The FAQs below explain what to expect.

What's changing?

From 1 April 2026, the way electricity connection charges are presented is changing. This follows new requirements introduced by the Electricity Authority to improve transparency and consistency across electricity distributors.

You'll see more detail in how your connection costs are broken down. This is about how costs are shown, not about introducing new charges.

Will connection charges go up?

These changes do not automatically increase connection charges or introduce new fees. They primarily change how connection costs are structured and explained under the new regulatory requirements.

Connection costs will continue to vary depending on what a customer needs. For example:

- how much capacity is required
- whether optional enhancements are chosen
- how the connection affects the wider network

These factors have always affected connection pricing and are not a result of this change.

The updated requirements have been introduced by the Electricity Authority and applies to all electricity distributors in New Zealand. It is intended to provide clearer and more consistent information about how connection costs are presented.

Why does my quote look different?

Your quote may look different because of new changes introduced by the Electricity Authority that apply to all electricity distributors in New Zealand.

You will see clearer information on:

- The lowest-cost design that meets your capacity requirements and Vector's network standards to connect your property or upgrade your existing electricity connection
- Any optional enhancements that you request above the lowest-cost design (shown separately in your quote)
- The cost of wider network capacity needed to support your connection or connection upgrade (shown as development contributions)

Quotes may also change if the project scope, timing, or network conditions change, or if a new quote is requested, after the original quote period has lapsed. This has always been the case and is not a result of this update.

How will my connection quote be calculated?

Your quote is based on the lowest-cost design that safely connects you to the electricity network while meeting your capacity requirements and Vector's network standards.

If you also choose optional enhancements, the cost of those upgrades will be added to your quote too.

Can connection prices still vary between customers?

Yes. Connection costs will still differ depending on what a customer needs. For example:

- How much capacity is required
- Whether optional enhancements are chosen (e.g. enhancements above the lowest-cost design, which may include options such as underground cables, extra redundancy, or a specific route)
- Whether civil work and/or traffic management is required, and who organises it

These factors have always affected connection pricing and are not related to this change.

What does 'capacity' mean?

Capacity refers to the amount of electricity the network can safely deliver through a new connection.

When a new connection is installed or an existing connection is upgraded, it uses some of the available capacity on the electricity network. If there isn't enough capacity available, parts of the network may need to be upgraded to support the additional demand.

The amount of capacity a customer requires depends on how much electricity their connection is expected to use.

Can I see a breakdown of my connection charges?

Yes. Your quote already includes a breakdown explaining the work required for your connection and any optional enhancements you've requested.

If you would like additional detail, you can request a Connection Charge Reconciliation once your quote has been issued.

The reconciliation is a standard explanation required by the Electricity Authority. It shows how your quoted connection charge is presented in a national regulatory format, including:

- The direct cost of connecting you
- Your share of wider network costs
- The expected future network revenue from your connection

Your quote explains the project and the work involved.

The reconciliation explains how that quoted charge is shown under the regulatory framework used across all electricity distributors.

The reconciliation is provided for transparency and does not change the price in your quote.

Will this affect existing connections?

These changes apply to new connections and upgrades from 1 April 2026.

If you already have a connection in progress, you won't be affected unless you request a redesign or a new quote for that connection. If this happens, the standard charges for that type of request will apply.

I received a quote before April 2026. Can I request a new one?

Quotes issued before 1 April 2026 will remain valid for the period stated in the quote.

If the scope of your project changes, you can request a new quote. Any quote requested after 1 April 2026 will be prepared using the Electricity Authority's updated requirements for presenting connection charges.

A new quote will replace your previous quote for that connection request. If you have already accepted a quote, you would need to cancel that agreement before requesting a new one. Any contributions paid would be refunded, less any costs already incurred.

If your quote lapses before you proceed, you'll need to submit a new request, and the quote will be prepared under the requirements that apply at the time of the request.

If you're unsure whether requesting a new quote is appropriate for your project, please contact us at connectionchanges@vector.co.nz and our team can help.

Will this affect how long it takes to get a quote?

Our standard quote timeframes will continue to apply and will depend on the complexity of your connection request and the information provided with your application.

From 1 April 2026, our teams will prepare quotes using the updated pricing framework introduced by the Electricity Authority. As these requirements are introduced, some quotes may initially take a little longer while the new approach is applied and embedded in our systems.

What should I do if I'm planning a new connection?

If you're planning a new electricity connection or an upgrade, you can continue to submit your request through Vector's normal connection application process.

Quotes issued from 1 April 2026 will follow the updated approach for presenting connection charges.

If you're unsure about the process or what type of connection you may need, our team can help guide you, get in contact at connectionchanges@vector.co.nz.

What if I want a higher-capacity or higher-spec connection?

Higher capacity: Your connection quote is based on the lowest-cost design that safely that safely connects you to the network at your requested capacity, while meeting Vector's network standards. If you request a higher-capacity connection, this becomes part of the lowest-cost design.

For example, most homes only need a standard single-phase connection. If you need a three-phase connection to power higher-demand equipment (e.g. multiple EV chargers), your lowest-cost design will be based on three-phase from the outset.

Higher spec: If you choose a higher-spec connection than the standard for your area, this is an optional enhancement. The additional cost will be shown separately in your quote.

For example, if your property is in an area where overground connections are standard and you choose an underground connection instead, you would pay for the additional cost for that upgrade, and it would appear as a separate line item in your quote.

What is a flexible connection, and when does it apply?

From 1 April 2026, customers can ask Vector to assess whether a flexible connection is suitable for their needs. Flexible connections aren't suitable for all customers or uses.

A flexible connection is an option where some of the electricity capacity you request may only be available when there is space on the network, rather than being available at all times.

This can suit customers whose electricity use can be managed or scheduled differently, such as charging equipment at certain times of the day.

In some cases, choosing a flexible connection may reduce the upfront cost of connecting to the network, because it may avoid the need for immediate network upgrades. However, this depends on the specific connection and how the flexibility would affect the wider network.

What is a pioneer scheme, and when does it apply?

A pioneer scheme is a refund mechanism that electricity distributors are required to set up so that the customer who initially funds a qualifying network extension can be reimbursed by later customers who connect to and use that same extension.

This means that initial connections may receive refunds if others connect later and subsequent connections may be charged to contribute to earlier shared infrastructure.

Pioneer schemes:

- Generally apply to eligible connection work above \$50,000 (inflation-adjusted from December 2025).
- Apply only to the portion of the infrastructure cost that relates to future connection capacity.
- Only include those costs that have initially been funded by a connecting customer
- Are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

If a pioneer scheme is relevant to your connection, we will explain this clearly as part of your quote.

Vector's electricity distribution network connection pricing methodology that will be published on Vector's website from 1 April 2026 will explain how pioneer scheme connection charges, contributions and rebates will be determined.

Who is NOT eligible for a pioneer scheme?

Pioneer schemes are required under the Electricity Authority's regulatory framework for connection pricing. However, they do not apply in some situations.

A pioneer scheme does **not** apply to the following connections:

1. **Real estate developments:** Connections that form part of a land development for the purpose of on-selling, such as subdivisions or projects involving multiple residential, commercial or industrial premises.
2. **Small connections:** Connections where the portion of the infrastructure that could support future connections does not meet the minimum cost threshold: \$50,000 for the initial connection, \$25,000 for later connections using that infrastructure.
3. **Connections where others are unlikely to connect later:** Where the infrastructure built to connect the site is unlikely to be used by other customers in the future.

How do network capacity costs (NCC) fit with these changes?

The Electricity Authority's updated requirements include the introduction of how network capacity costs (NCC) charges are determined if electricity distributors decide to charge for providing network capacity for new or upgraded connections.

Electricity distributors are required to calculate NCC charges under the Electricity Authority's rules from 1 April 2027, and Vector is currently working through how it will implement these charges.

For now, Vector's connection quotes will continue to show the cost of capacity charged as a development contribution, where applicable. We'll provide more information on how capacity costs will be change from 1 April 2027 under the new Electricity Authority's rules closer to that date.

What should I do if I still don't understand my quote?

If you have questions after reviewing your quote, please contact us at connectionchanges@vector.co.nz. We're happy to walk through the information with you and explain what applies to your specific connection.

Are these changes related to Vector's annual electricity price updates?

No. Vector reviews its electricity distribution prices each year, with any approved changes typically taking effect from 1 April. These are part of the normal annual pricing process and are separate from these changes to how connection charges are presented.

The updates described on this page relate specifically to how connection costs are presented in new connection quotes. They do not introduce new charges and are not connected to Vector's annual distribution price review.

If you'd like more information about our annual electricity pricing updates, please visit this [page](#) for more information.