



Clutha District Council

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

## QUARRIES

*If you are applying for resource consent you will need to prepare an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE).*

*A resource consent is permission from a council to do something that might affect the environment, or permission to use a resource in some way. Preparing an AEE is only one step in making a resource consent application.*

*It is up to you to provide an AEE statement with your resource consent application. The Council will not accept your application without an AEE.*

## GUIDE TO ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

### What is an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) and how will it help you?

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires you to prepare an AEE to accompany your application for resource consent. A good AEE will greatly assist in having your application considered quickly and efficiently.

The AEE process:

- Helps identify the effects your activity may have (both negative and positive).
- Helps you consider the views of other people affected by your activity.
- Helps identify how you can modify your activity to control adverse effects
- Assists Council and affected parties to fully understand your activity
- Assist Council in determining whether to grant consent or not, and whether conditions are appropriate.

### Why do you need a Resource Consent in the first place?

The RMA requires Council to administer the use, development and protection of resources so that they are sustainably managed. The key to this is to ensure that adverse effects of a proposal, both positive and negative, are considered before an activity is allowed to happen. Activities which generate no or only minor adverse effects will generally be permitted by the District Plan. Those activities that potentially generate adverse effects require a resource consent so that those adverse effects can be controlled. If they can not be controlled, the activity may not be allowed to proceed.

### What is an ‘‘Effect’’ on the ‘‘Environment’’?

The RMA defines ‘‘effect’’ and ‘‘environment’’ in very broad terms. This means that you must look very carefully at your proposal as all effects, whether positive or negative, short term or long term, must be identified. It is very unlikely that an activity will have no adverse effects.

‘‘Effects’’ can be

- Positive or negative
- Temporary or permanent
- Past, present, or future
- Cumulative (arising over time or in combination with other effects)

All effects must be identified, regardless of scale, intensity, character, or frequency. Potential effects of high probability and potential effects of low probability which have a high potential impact must also be identified.

The financial viability of your activity is not an effect that can be considered by Council under the RMA. However positive social, economic and cultural effects are a relevant consideration.

‘‘Environment’’ is defined as including;

- Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities
- All natural and physical resources
- Amenity values
- The social, aesthetic and cultural conditions which affect or are affected by the matters above.

### How detailed should your AEE be?

The level of detail in your AEE should be proportional to the potential effects of your proposed activity. It does not need to be exhaustive but should provide enough information for Council to fully evaluate the potential effects.

To do this you must look at the District Plan and the activities status to identify the relevant issues.

The District Plan will contain objectives, policies and possibly assessment criteria which will be relevant.

The activities status (e.g. controlled, restricted discretionary, discretionary, non-complying) will usually determine the issues you will need to address.

For controlled and restricted discretionary, the Plan will set out the matters to address. For discretionary and non-complying, a wider range of issues need to be considered, so the objectives and policies of the plan become important.

### What are the Consequences of Not Providing an AEE or an Adequate AEE?

The RMA requires every resource consent application to be accompanied by an AEE. Consequently, Council is unlikely to process your application without one.

An inadequate AEE -

- Reduces your ability to fine tune your proposal before you lodge it
- Potentially increases processing costs and time because you will be asked for further information or Council will spend more time trying to understand it.
- Reduces the chance of getting consent.

If you are having difficulty in preparing an AEE (particularly if your development is reasonably significant) you may need to contact a planning professional. Council will be able to provide you with a list of such professionals.

To assist you with the preparation of an AEE, Council has prepared simplified forms which should be completed for:

- Quarries
- Signs
- Relocated dwellings
- Minor, general issues.

The form relevant to your inquiry is attached. It should be completed and returned with your application which should also contain the following information:

- (a) Application fee in the prescribed amount (note that an additional charge may also be payable).
- (b) Copy of current Certificate of Title for the land subject to the application.
- (c) Locality Plan.
- (d) Site Plan.
- (e) A full description of the intended use of the property.

**ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS**

**FOR**

\_\_\_\_\_ **QUARRY**

**RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION**

**1. Introduction**

This statement of effects accompanies and forms part of the resource consent application by \_\_\_\_\_ (*applicant*) for the establishment and operation of a quarry. It provides an assessment of the actual and/or potential effects on the environment of the proposed development and how those effects are to be avoided, remedied, or mitigated.

**2. Assessment of Effects and Measures taken to Avoid, Remedy or Mitigate these Effects**

*(Identify all the effects that you can think of (see Guide) and ways in which you propose to avoid, remedy or mitigate these. You will most likely need to address the issues set out below)*

**i. Access**

Access to the site is from:

Access onto the road and the road itself, is of adequate construction and is designed to accommodate all heavy vehicles likely to visit the site without causing damage to the carriageway.

This is confirmed by *(consultation with Clutha District Council staff or physical description)* as follows:

OR

Access onto the road and the road itself is not of an adequate design for the intended activity. To mitigate this we propose the following works:

ii. **Visual Impact**

How visually sensitive is the location of the site? (Has the site been previously used as a quarry? Is it near a busy road or public place?).

How much (if any) vegetation and/or soil will be removed?

How will visual impacts be mitigated? For example:-

- Will the site be rehabilitated with topsoil etc as work progresses/finishes **Yes / No**
- Will trees be planted? Is any landscaping proposed? **Yes / No**
- Is it already screened by topography, vegetation etc? **Yes / No**
- Other works: **Yes**

iii. **Impact on Waterbodies**

Are there any waterbodies or ground water sources affected by the working of the quarry? **Yes / No**

If yes, provide a description:

If so, how will effects be mitigated? For example:

- No works within 10 metres of the waterbody **Yes / No**
- Preserving riparian vegetation **Yes / No**
- No stockpiling of soil within the riparian margin or in a manner where it may enter the waterbody **Yes / No**
- Plan to rehabilitate the margin and any disturbed areas, including planting **Yes / No**
- Other works. **Yes / No**

iv. **Heritage / Cultural Sites**

Are any identified heritage / cultural sites affected by the process? **Yes / No**

If yes, provide a description:

If so, how is this to be managed? For example:

- Carry out archaeological survey of the sites **Yes / No**
- Avoid work in known areas of importance **Yes / No**
- Ensure appropriate Historic Place Act procedures are followed **Yes / No**
- Other work **Yes / No**

What if unknown archaeological materials or sites are discovered?

- The standard procedure for such an occurrence in the Clutha District will be followed:
  - a. All work that may affect the archaeological site shall cease and
  - b. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust shall be contacted and all necessary authorisation in terms of Section 14 of the Historic Places Act 1993 will be obtained and / or
  - c. The Iwi Office at Kai Tahu ki Otago, Dunedin (phone 03 477 0071) shall be contacted in the event that the site is of significance to Iwi and either,
  - d. An archaeologist prior to excavation activity resuming will be undertaken with any archaeological findings being described and access OR
  - e. No further work will be carried out on the site.
- Other works:

v. **Dust**

Is dust likely to be a problem to neighbouring property owners: **Yes / No**

If yes, please describe:

If so, how do you propose to mitigate the effects of dust? For example:

- Use buffer zones (e.g. nearest dwellings some distance away). **Yes / No**
- Existing screening / topography will mitigate effects (e.g. shelter belts) **Yes / No**
- Use water spray to suppress dust when necessary. **Yes / No**
- Other works:

Will noise emissions meet the requirements of the Clutha District Plan? **Yes / No**

How frequent will the quarry be worked?

How close are the nearest affected dwellings?

Will blasting or crushing occur onsite?

vii. **Hazardous Substances**

Will hazardous substances be used on the site?

**Yes / No**

If yes, please describe:

If so, how will they be managed?

vii. **Natural Hazards**

Is your site affected by a natural hazard (e.g. flood prone, fault line etc)?  
Will stability be a problem? Please describe:

ix. **Positive Effects**

What are the positive effects of your activity?

3. **Conclusion**