



# GUIDE TO ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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

A resource consent is permission from council to do something that might affect the environment, or permission to use a resource in some way. Preparing an AEE is the main part of your resource consent application.

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

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) sets out in the Fourth Schedule to the Act, the following requirements for an AEE:

- An assessment of the activity against the matters set out in Part 2 of the RMA.
- An assessment of the activity against any relevant provisions of a document referred to in section 104(1)(b) of the RMA, including;
  - (a) Any relevant objectives, policies or rules in a document; and
  - (b) Any relevant requirements, conditions, or permissions in any rules in a document; and
  - (c) Any other relevant requirements in a document (for example, in a national environmental standard or other regulations).

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

- An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment that:
  - (a) Includes the information required by Clause 6 (see below); and
  - (b) Addresses the matters specified in clause 7 (see below); and
  - (c) Includes such detail as corresponds with the scale and significance of the effects that the activity may have on the environment.
- An application must also include the following if relevant:
  - (a) If any permitted activity is part of the proposal to which the application relates, a description of the permitted activity that demonstrates that it complies with the requirements, conditions, and permissions for the permitted activity (so that a resource consent is not required for that activity under section 87A(1) of the RMA;
  - (b) If the application is affected by section 124 or 165H(1)(c) (which relate to existing resource consents), an assessment of the value of the investment of the existing consent holder (for the purposes of section 104(2A)).

*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.*

## **Clause 6: Information required in an AEE**

- (1) An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment must include the following information:
  - (a) if it is likely that the activity will result in any significant adverse effect on the environment, a description of any possible alternative locations or methods for undertaking the activity;
  - (b) an assessment of the actual or potential effect on the environment of the activity;
  - (c) if the activity includes the use of hazardous substances and installations, an assessment of any risks to the environment that are likely to arise from such use;
  - (d) if the activity includes the discharge of any contaminant, a description of—
    - (i) the nature of the discharge and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; and
    - (ii) any possible alternative methods of discharge, including discharge into any other receiving environment;
  - (e) a description of the mitigation measures (including safeguards and contingency plans where relevant) to be undertaken to help prevent or reduce the actual or potential effect;
  - (f) identification of the persons affected by the activity, any consultation undertaken, and any response to the views of any person consulted;
  - (g) if the scale and significance of the activity's effects are such that monitoring is required, a description of how and by whom the effects will be monitored if the activity is approved;
  - (h) if the activity will, or is likely to, have adverse effects that are more than minor on the exercise of a protected customary right, a description of possible alternative locations or methods for the exercise of the activity (unless written approval for the activity is given by the protected customary rights group).
- (2) A requirement to include information in the assessment of environmental effects is subject to the provisions of any policy statement or plan.
- (3) To avoid doubt, subclause (1)(f) obliges an applicant to report as to the persons identified as being affected by the proposal, but does not—
  - (a) oblige the applicant to consult any person; or
  - (b) create any ground for expecting that the applicant will consult any person.

## **Clause 7: Matters that must be addressed by an AEE**

- (1) An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment must address the following matters:
  - (a) any effect on those in the neighbourhood and, where relevant, the wider community, including any social, economic, or cultural effects;
  - (b) any physical effect on the locality, including any landscape and visual effects;
  - (c) any effect on ecosystems, including effects on plants or animals and any physical disturbance of habitats in the vicinity;
  - (d) any effect on natural and physical resources having aesthetic, recreational, scientific, historical, spiritual, or cultural value, or other special value, for present or future generations;
  - (e) any discharge of contaminants into the environment, including any unreasonable emission of noise, and options for the treatment and disposal of contaminants;
  - (f) any risk to the neighbourhood, the wider community, or the environment through natural hazards or the use of hazardous substances or hazardous installations.
- (2) The requirement to address a matter in the assessment of environmental effects is subject to the provisions of any policy statement or plan.



# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Please use the below table to guide your Assessment of Environmental Effects

	<b>How does your proposal affect the following?</b> <i>(Consider any adverse or positive effects)</i>	<b>How will you avoid, remedy or mitigate these effects?</b>
<p><b>Neighbourhood and Wider Community</b></p> <p><i>e.g. cultural, socio-economic, heritage, roading network, transportation, conflict on nearby activities (e.g. schools) or parking.</i></p>		
<p><b>Physical Resources and Effects on Locality</b></p> <p><i>e.g. landscape, visual amenity, views, shading of neighbours property, privacy, noise, hours of operation, dust, odour, council services, existing developments.</i></p>		
<p><b>Natural Resources</b></p> <p><i>e.g. soil/land, waterways or indigenous vegetation/habitats.</i></p>		
<p><b>Hazards</b></p> <p><i>e.g. natural hazards (flood prone, fault lines, coastal) or hazardous substances.</i></p>		
<p><b>General</b></p> <p>How will you ensure that the effects are managed in the future?</p> <p>Do you have any further comments about the activity?</p>		

*(Please attach any additional information or provide your own AEE)*