

Information Sheet on Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE)

FORM NUMBER: RME

DATE: 23 AUGUST 2001

WHAT is an Assessment of Environmental Effects?

An AEE is a Statement of all the actual or potential effects on the environment of your development proposal, regardless of the effects being positive or adverse.

There are two important definitions to understand concerning an AEE. These are as stated in the Act:

"Environment" includes:

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

"Effect" includes:

- Any positive or adverse effect; and
- Any temporary or permanent effect; and
- Any past, present or future effect; and
- Any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects, regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect and also includes:
 - Any potential effect of high probability; and
 - Any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, your application to Council for a resource consent to carry out your proposal, must contain an AEE. The scale and detail of the AEE may, however, be consistent with the expected environmental effects of the proposal.

WHY have an Assessment?

The Act requires you to have an AEE because it makes you think about the likely effects of your proposal on the environment, both positive and adverse, and ways to avoid or minimise the adverse effects.

WHEN Should You Do Your Assessment?

Right from the start of your project - as part of your planning.

Don't come up with a finished proposal and then start thinking about environmental effects and how to avoid them - it may be too late at that point. Applications without adequate assessments may not be accepted by Council.

WHO Should Do the Assessment?

The Act says the assessment is the responsibility of the applicant and must be submitted with an application.

Council will then decide if your assessment is accurate and adequate. If it is, then there should be few problems in accepting and processing the application.

To write your assessment, you may need professional help from consulting engineers, planners or scientists. However, this will only be needed if your proposal is complex or may have major effects on the environment.

Check with Council staff to see if you should get professional help to write your assessment.



Here We Are!

RICHMOND 189 Queen St Private Bag 4 Richmond 7031 Ph (03) 544 8176 Fax (03) 543 9524	MOTUEKA 7 Hickmott Place P.O. Box 123 Motueka 7161 Ph (03) 528 7700 Fax (03) 528 9751	GOLDEN BAY 78 Commercial St P.O. Box 74 Takaka 7172 Ph (03) 525 9516 Fax (03) 525 9972	MURCHISON 92 Fairfax St Murchison 7191 Ph (03) 523 1013 Fax (03) 523 1012
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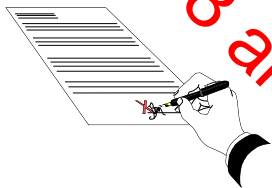
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HOW to Write your Assessment

The Fourth Schedule of the Act gives guidance on the scope and content of the assessment of environmental effects. It sets out the matters which should be included in an assessment, including such matters as assessment of risks (where hazardous substances are involved), a description of mitigation measures, the consultation undertaken and monitoring.



The Fourth Schedule also provides a list of issues which should be considered when preparing an assessment. This does not mean that every assessment should include all these matters. The Fourth Schedule does not override the basic principle of the Act that the assessment should be as simple or complex as the effects anticipated. The Fourth Schedule provides a checklist of matters and issues which may be relevant, depending on circumstances.

Council policy statements and plans, however, may limit or direct the application of the Fourth Schedule.

The Fourth Schedule is set out on the back of this form. You should prepare your AEE following the requirements of the Fourth Schedule as best suits the circumstances of your proposal. In other words, information under each item should be incorporated in your AEE where it is relevant or necessary to describe the effects of the proposal.

Information about the proposal must be accurate and honest and should be presented as clearly and as simply as possible.

As much information as possible should be presented in visual form – maps, aerial photographs, drawings.

The Effect of Any Proposal on Matters of Value to Tangata Whenua

The Act places an obligation on Council to take into account the effects of proposals on resources of value to tangata whenua, that is, the iwi or hapu that has customary authority over an area.

You will therefore need to find out which iwi have interests in resources which could be affected by the proposal and then consult with them to determine any concerns they may have.

The following is a list of tangata whenua contacts:

For Motueka Area

- Ngati Rarua Iwi Trust, 175 Whakarewa Street, Motueka. Attention Mrs Rima Piggott
- Mr P Park, Te Ati Awa Manawhenua Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust, 132 Whakarewa Street, Motueka
- Ngati Tama Manawhenua Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust, P O Box 10, Nelson
- The Chairperson, Ngati Koata No Rangitoto Ki Te Tonga Trust, P O Box 63, Nelson
- Tapatu Hapu Trust, P O Box 1, Spring Creek, Blenheim
- Ngati Awa Trust, C/o Smith Law, P O Box 173, Nelson

Other • Department of Conservation, P O Box 97, Motueka. Attention Tim Shaw

PLUS For Golden Bay Area

- Chris Hill, Manawhenua Ki Mohua Trust, P O Box 171, Takaka
- The Chairperson Ngati Koata No Rangitoto Ki Te Tonga Trust, P O Box 63, Nelson
- Tapatu Hapu Trust, P O Box 1, Spring Creek, Blenheim
- Ngati Awa Trust, C/o Smith Law, P O Box 173, Nelson

Other • Department of Conservation, P O Box 166, Takaka. Attention Greg Napp (Terrestrial)
Kaye Stark (Coastal)

PLUS For Moutere/Waimea/Richmond

- Te Runanga O Ngati Kuia Charitable Trust, P O Box 968, Nelson
- Ngati Parua Iwi Trust, 175 Whakalewa Street, Motueka. Attention Mrs Rima Piggott
- (West of Moutere Bluffs (entrance to Mokape Domain) – straight line through to Kawatiri Junction)
- Ngati Parua Iwi Trust, C/o R J Thomas, 31 Toi Toi Street, Nelson
- (East of Moutere Bluffs (excluding Takaka))
- Ngati Tama Manawhenua Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust, P O Box 10, Nelson
- The Chairperson, Ngati Koata No Rangitoto Ki Te Tonga Trust, P O Box 63, Nelson
- Tapatu Hapu Trust, P O Box 1, Spring Creek, Blenheim
- Ngati Awa Trust, C/o Smith Law, P O Box 173, Nelson

PLUS For Lakes/Murchison

- Te Runanga O Ngati Kuia Charitable Trust, P O Box 968, Nelson
- Tapatu Hapu Trust, P O Box 1, Spring Creek, Blenheim
- The Chairperson, Ngati Koata No Rangitoto Ki Te Tonga Trust, P O Box 63, Nelson
- The Chairperson, Te Runaka o Katiwaewae, c/o Mrs Dianne Wilson, 215 Park Street, Hokitika
- Mr Richard Wallace, Tumatokokiri Ngati Wairangi, 47 Brook Street, Nelson
- The Chairperson, Te Runanga o Tuhuru, c/o Secretary, Mrs Tewhe Weepu, Old Stafford Road, Arahura R D, Hokitika
- Kath Hemi QSM, Chairperson, Ngati Apa ki te Waipounamu Trust, P O Box 361, Blenheim
- Ngati Awa Trust, C/o Smith Law, P O Box 173, Nelson
- Ngati Rarua Iwi Trust, C/o R J Thomas, 31 Toi Toi Street, Nelson

Other • Department of Conservation, Private Bag, St Arnaud. Attention Paul McArthur

Consultation

For some applications, meeting face to face may be the best way to achieve effective consultation. Here are some ingredients for effective consultation.

1. Be prepared to make changes to the proposal in response to feedback.
2. Listen rather than promote. The person consulting should remember that the primary purpose of the exercise is to find out what the community thinks about the proposal, not to "sell" the proposal by putting down or ignoring any concerns expressed.
3. Make sure that those being consulted are representative of all the people who will be affected. At meetings, make sure that all the people present contribute to the discussions.



FOURTH SCHEDULE

Extract from Resource Management Act 1991

"Assessment of Effects on the Environment"

1. **Matters that should be included in an assessment of effects on the environment** – subject to the provisions of any policy statement or plan, an assessment of effects on the environment for the purposes of Section 83(6)(b) should include:
- (a) A description of the proposal.
 - (b) Where it is likely that an activity will result in any significant adverse effect on the environment, a description of any possible alternative locations or methods for undertaking the activity.
 - (c) Repealed by Section 225 Resource Management Amendment Act 1993 (1993, No. 65).
 - (d) An assessment of the actual or potential effect on the environment of the proposed activity.
 - (e) Where the activity includes the use of hazardous substances and installations, an assessment of any risks to the environment which are likely to arise from such use.
 - (f) Where the activity includes the discharge of any contaminant, a description of:
 - (i) the nature of the discharge and the sensitivity of the proposed receiving environment to adverse effects; and
 - (ii) any possible alternative methods of discharge, including discharge into any other receiving environment.
 - (g) A description of the mitigation measures (safeguards and contingency plans where relevant) to be undertaken to help prevent or reduce the actual or potential effect.
 - (h) An identification of those persons interested in or affected by the proposal, the consultation undertaken, and any response to the views of those consulted.
- (i) Where the scale or significance of the activity's effect are such that monitoring is required, a description of how, once the proposal is approved, effects will be monitored and by whom.
2. **Matters that should be considered when preparing an assessment of the effects on the environment** – subject to the provisions of any policy statement or plan, any person providing an assessment of the effects on the environment should consider the following matters:
- (a) Any effect on those in the neighbourhood and, where relevant, the wider community, including any socio-economic and cultural effects.
 - (b) Any physical effect on the locality, including any landscape and visual effects.
 - (c) Any effect on ecosystems, including effects on plants and 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, 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.