

Preparing an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) for a resource consent application

What is an AEE?

An AEE is a statement about the effects of a proposed activity or structure on the environment. A resource consent is considered incomplete if there is no AEE and no, you **cannot** simply say there no effects without explaining why.

Effects include:

- Any positive or adverse effect
- Any temporary or permanent effect
- Any cumulative effect that arises over time or in combination with other effects
- Any potential effect that has a high probability of happening
- Any potential effect that has a low probability of happening but a high potential impact. For example while there may be a low probability of a hazardous substance spill there will be significant adverse effects on the environment if it does happen.

'Environment' includes:

- Ecosystems, including people, communities and the local neighbourhood.
- All natural and physical resources
- Amenity values (defined in the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) as "natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence and cultural and recreational attributes")
- Social, economic and cultural conditions which affect, or are affected by, the matters above.

Why do I need to do an AEE?

The RMA requires that an AEE must accompany **all** resource consent applications. An AEE is important because it helps the processing planner understand the effects on the environment. This is helpful when determining aspects of the consent such as potentially affected parties and conditions of approval. If you do not include an AEE with your resource consent application then your application will be returned to you. If the information in your AEE is inadequate then your application will either be returned to you or be subject to a further information request under Section 92 of the RMA. If this happens then your application will be placed on hold. (i.e. the processing of the application will be suspended until the information is received and accepted.)

How detailed should my AEE be?

The amount of detail provided in the AEE should match the scale and nature of the anticipated environmental effects. Generally, the larger or more complex the effects are, the more detail will be required to enable full and proper assessment by the processing planner.

Can I prepare an AEE myself?

Yes you can, by filling out the required sections of this form. You may wish to discuss this first with the Council duty planner. If your application has a technical aspect, it might be necessary or preferable to get professional help (such as from a consultant planner, engineer, acoustic specialist). A specialist report may also be necessary e.g. acoustic report, traffic impact assessment report.

For further information on how to write an effective AEE, see the Ministry for the Environment Website <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/aee-guide-aug06/>

Assessment of Environmental Effects

Please fill out the sections of this form. The space under each section is a guide only. If you require more space, use separate sheets.

SECTION 1: THE PROPOSAL

Describe the proposed activity **in detail**. This section should include;

- Describing what the activity is (eg a childcare centre for 20 preschool children aged 2 – 5 years, retail furniture shop including the assembly and storage of products, implement shed, carport)

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SECTION 2: THE SITE

Describe the site and its features. This section should include:

- Topography – is the site flat or sloping?
- Water features – are there any wetlands, ponds, rivers or streams running through the site? If so, where are they?
- Vegetation – are there any significant trees or bush areas on the site? If so, where?
- Services – where are the existing water/sewer/stormwater/power/telephone services?

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SECTION 3: CHARACTER

What is the existing character of the surrounding neighbourhood? Will the proposal change the character of the area?

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SECTION 4: VISUAL AMENITY

The RMA interprets **amenity values** as “those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.”

- How will the proposal affect the outlook of surrounding neighbours i.e. how will it change? Will the development have any screening such as fences or vegetation?
- Will there be any signs? How many? What will their size in square metres be?
- Will there be any outdoor lighting required?
- Where will refuse be stored?

Rural Residential Zone Only: What are the reflectivity values of all proposed painted surfaces?

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SECTION 5: TRAFFIC, CARPARKING AND ACCESS

Will the proposal generate extra traffic? Will car parking be provided on site? If so, how many spaces? Where will maneuvering occur? Where will access to the site be located? How far can drivers see up and down the road when pulling out onto it? Where will loading occur?

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SECTION 6: NOISE EFFECTS

What noise effects will be generated by the proposal and how will these effects be mitigated (lessened)?

Will there be any vibration effects and who will be affected?

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SECTION 7: BUILDING AND EARTHWORKS

- Will the proposal require any new buildings or additions to existing buildings?
- What will be the purpose/intended use of these buildings?
- What will the floor area of the building be (in square metres)?
- Will the buildings shade the adjoining property or properties?
- If earthworks are required, what will be the volume of earthworks in cubic metres (m³)?

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SECTION 8: SERVICES

Describe how/if the following services will be provided to the site:

- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Water (where will it be sourced from?)
- Power and telephone

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SECTION 9: VEGETATION AND LANDSCAPING

Will any existing vegetation be affected by the proposal? Is any planting or landscaping proposed?

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SECTION 10: CULTURAL IMPACTS

Will there be any cultural impacts or impacts on archaeological/ecological sites? It may be necessary to talk to Raukawa Trust Board or the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

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