



GUIDE TO PREPARING AN ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS (AEE)

INTRODUCTION

Every activity requiring resource consent has some effect on the environment.

These effects can be positive or negative and they may be permanent or temporary

Every application for resource consent must include an AEE to enable the proposal to be assessed.

WHAT IS AN ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS (AEE)?

An Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) is a written statement / report that outlines any actual or potential effects an activity may have on neighbours and/or the wider environment.

An AEE enables the Council to have a better understanding of the effects that any proposed activity may have on the environment when assessing an application for resource consent.

The level of detail provided must reflect the scale/significance and nature of the effects. For example, a small scale activity, such as construction of a building within the required yard setback from a boundary, would require only a short and less detailed AEE whereas a large-scale subdivision in an area of significant natural value would require a detailed AEE. The greater the scale of significance your proposal may have on the environment, the greater the level of detail required in the AEE will be.

Effects may include:

- Visual Effects
- Nuisance effects such as noise, dust or odour
- Shading and privacy of properties
- Effects on plants/vegetation or animals/fauna
- Risk of natural hazards
- Increased traffic
- Traffic safety
- Effects on the character of the neighbourhood
- Risk of hazardous substances

HOW TO PREPARE AN ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Chapter 30 of the Wairoa District Plan lists the assessment matters that will be considered in evaluating an application for resource consent:

- Nuisance matters such as noise, vibration and odour
- Privacy, shading and amenity value
- Advertising signs
- Hazardous substances
- Natural hazards
- Historic places and notable trees
- Indigenous vegetation and/or habitats of indigenous fauna
- Access and parking
- Utilities
- Subdivision
- Site servicing

These criteria should be considered in relation to the rules/performance standards in the District Plan that your proposal cannot comply with. This will help you to identify the type of effects that should be covered when preparing an AEE. Obviously not all the assessment matters will be relevant to your application.

Your application should accurately describe the site and its surroundings including buildings, activities undertaken on the site, existing vegetation and waterbodies, topography etc.

Your AEE should then describe any actual or potential effects of the proposed activity, both positive and negative and whether those effects are temporary or permanent. It should also state the considered scale of those effects, for example whether they be minor or significant

You will need to describe any effects on neighbours and the surrounding area – for example will your proposal reduce privacy for neighbours, will it generate more traffic, will it enhance or detract from the natural character of the area etc.

You should also identify how you propose to mitigate (reduce or lessen) these effects. For example, if you are removing vegetation, will riparian margins be maintained, will silt control measures be implemented for earthworks activities, will subdivisions be landscaped etc.

Persons affected by the proposal need to be identified and any consultation undertaken is to be outlined in the AEE detailing any issues raised and how these will be addressed. State whether the written approval of persons affected has been obtained (copies should be included with the application).

MORE INFORMATION

If you require any further information with regard to preparing an AEE, you can:

- Contact the District Planner on (06) 838 7309
- Look at the relevant sections of the Wairoa District Plan
- See the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz for information on preparing AEEs
- See 'A guide to Preparing a Basic Assessment of Environmental Effects' available on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz
- Obtain specialist advice for more complex applications