

Information on Resource Management Processes

This is part of a series of information sheets that provide an overview of processes under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for resource consents, deemed permitted boundary activities, and plan-making. These information sheets reflect changes made to the RMA through the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017.

Information for affected persons: Written approvals

This information sheet outlines what is involved with giving someone your written approval for a resource consent or deemed permitted boundary activity.

Giving your written approval for a resource consent

If it is likely you will be affected by an activity proposed in a resource consent application, the applicant (or someone acting on their behalf) may approach you for your written approval of their activity.

Giving your written approval involves signing a number of documents. The applicant will usually ask you to sign and date:

- a copy of the application form – the application form sets out the details of the application for resource consent
- a copy of the plans, if there are any – the plans show what the applicant wants to do
- a copy of the assessment of environmental effects (AEE) – the AEE states what the environmental effects will be, and how the applicant proposes to address them
- an affected person approval form – signing the affected person approval form shows that you understand the activity and its effects, and you give your approval to the activity.

You do not have to give written approval if you are unhappy with what is being proposed. If you're unsure about giving your written approval to a proposal, think about getting independent planning or legal advice.

You cannot give conditional approval to the proposal. However, discussions with the applicant about their proposal may lead you to reach a private agreement with them. This is a private matter between you and the applicant.

If you give your written approval, you are no longer considered to be affected by the proposal.

If you give your written approval:

- the adverse effects on you will not be considered when the council decides whether to notify the application, or to grant or decline the application
- you can't appeal the decision after the resource consent has been granted.

If all other potentially affected parties also give their written approval, the council will probably consider the application without notification to anyone, and approve or decline the resource consent. Giving your written approval doesn't mean the council will automatically approve the application.

You can withdraw your written approval

If the application is for a resource consent and not a deemed permitted boundary activity (see below), you can formally withdraw your approval in writing any time before there is a hearing (if there is one), or before a decision is made on the resource consent by the council.

Giving your written approval for a deemed permitted boundary activity

If your neighbour (or someone working on their behalf) approaches you requesting written approval for a 'deemed permitted boundary activity', this means what they are proposing to do does not comply with a rule in the district plan and directly relates to their boundary with your property (a 'boundary rule').

Prior to recent changes to the RMA when such rules were not complied with, your neighbour would have needed to obtain a resource consent, and may still have approached you for your written approval. The new 'deemed permitted boundary activity' process differs in that if the only rule(s) that the activity is breaching is a boundary rule, and you and any other owners of allotments with infringed boundaries provide written approval, then the council must permit the activity.

Giving your written approval means that it is likely the proposal can proceed without resource consent.

Once you (and any other owners of allotments with infringed boundaries) provide your written approval, then the council must permit the activity. They do not undertake any type of assessment to decide the application; they will simply check the applicant has provided the correct information and that the activity is a boundary activity.

You do not have to give written approval if you are unhappy with what is being proposed. If you're unsure about what you're being asked to agree to, think about getting independent planning or legal advice before signing.

You cannot give conditional approval to the proposal. However, discussion over obtaining written approval may lead you to reach a private agreement with the applicant. This is a private matter between you and the applicant.

You cannot withdraw your written approval

There is no ability to withdraw your written approval for a deemed permitted boundary activity once you have provided it. It is important that you understand the application and process before you sign the written approval form and plans. You can ask your council to explain the process to you, or seek legal or expert advice.

Material in this series

This is one of a series of information sheets that provide an overview of resource consent, deemed permitted boundary activity, and plan-making processes under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

Find out more:

- [Deemed Permitted Boundary Activity flowchart](#)

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