

WHAT IS THE RMA SURVEY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES?

Every two years the Ministry for the Environment carries out the Resource Management Act (RMA) survey of all 86 local authorities in New Zealand. The survey includes questions about six key aspects of RMA process:

- numbers and types of resource consents processed
- the charges to applicants for resource consent applications
- the time taken to process resource consents
- good practice by local authorities
- Maori participation in RMA processes
- monitoring, compliance and enforcement.

While the primary purpose of the survey is to monitor the effect and implementation of the RMA, the survey results have the added advantage of:

- promoting good practice and improved performance in local authorities
- providing a factual basis for analysing and responding to criticisms of the RMA
- allowing individual local authorities to compare performance with their peers.

The full report on the RMA survey of local authorities can be found on the Ministry for the Environment's website at: www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/annual-survey/index.html



FIVE KEY FACTS FROM THE 2001/02 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 49,012 resource consents were processed through to a decision.
- 274 (0.6%) of resource consents were declined.
- 2,921 (6.0%) of resource consents were publicly notified (ie, public comment or submission was sought).
- 82% of all resource consents were processed within statutory time limits (ie, the standard timeframes set in the RMA).
- 69% of publicly notified consents were processed within statutory time limits.

NUMBER OF RESOURCE CONSENTS PROCESSED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities are grouped into family groups according to their authority type and, in the case of the 70 territorial authorities, the number of resource consents that they process.

LOCAL AUTHORITY FAMILY GROUPS AND RESOURCE CONSENTS PROCESSED IN 2001/02		
Family Group 1		
Kawerau District Council	8	
Stratford District Council	36	
Wairoa District Council	38	
Opotiki District Council	40	
MacKenzie District Council	43	
Waimate District Council	47	
Carterton District Council	49	
Waitomo District Council	51	
Otorohanga District Council	54	
Taranaki District Council	59	
Grey District Council	61	
Ruapehu District Council	69	
Clutha District Council	75	
Gore District Council	83	
Buller District Council	86	
Westland District Council	93	
Rangitikei District Council	96	
South Waikato District Council	97	
Kaikoura District Council	104	
Family Group 2		
Waitaki District Council	116	
Central Hawkes Bay District Council	124	
Hauraki District Council	126	
Banks Peninsula District Council	137	
Masterton District Council	140	
Hurunui District Council	143	
Manawatu District Council	147	
South Taranaki District Council	164	
South Wairarapa District Council	170	
Ashburton District Council	177	
Horowhenua District Council	186	
Kaipara District Council	190	
Upper Hutt City Council	200	
Central Otago District Council	206	
Matamata-Piako District Council	214	
Wanganui District Council	215	
Whakatane District Council	229	
Invercargill City Council	232	
Southland District Council	246	
Papakura District Council	249	
Timaru District Council	286	
Kapiti Coast District Council	298	
Family Group 3		
Napier City Council	310	
Franklin District Council	314	
Porirua City Council	358	
Waimakariri District Council	402	
New Plymouth District Council	414	
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	414	
Palmerston North City Council	447	
Hastings District Council	466	
Waikato District Council	472	
Waipa District Council	484	
Taupo District Council	511	
Tauranga District Council	526	
Selwyn District Council	529	
Rotorua District Council	536	
Thames Coromandel District Council	565	
Hamilton City Council	588	
Hutt City Council	622	
Family Group 4		
Whangarei District Council	747	
Far North District Council	763	
Dunedin City Council	780	
Queenstown Lakes District Council	964	
Wellington City Council	1,323	
Rodney District Council	1,403	
Waitakere City Council	1,506	
Manukau City Council	1,808	
North Shore City Council	2,385	
Christchurch City Council	2,489	
Auckland City Council	5,649	
Regional Councils		
Auckland Regional Council	1,042	
Environment Bay of Plenty	732	
Environment Canterbury	2,390	
Environment Southland	731	
Environment Waikato	1,192	
Hawkes Bay Regional Council	811	
horizons.mw	450	
Northland Regional Council	931	
Otago Regional Council	675	
Taranaki Regional Council	478	
Wellington Regional Council	691	
West Coast Regional Council	1,520	
Unitary Authorities		
Chatham Islands Council	2	
Gisborne District Council	576	
Marlborough District Council	2,037	
Nelson City Council	408	
Tasman District Council	1,187	
TOTAL RESOURCE CONSENTS PROCESSED		49,012

NEXT SURVEY: The next RMA survey of local authorities will take place in the 2003/04 financial year. The survey questionnaire will be released before 30 June 2003. Responses will be collected from local authorities after 31 July 2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: If you would like to know more about the RMA Survey of Local Authorities contact the Ministry for the Environment by phoning us on (04) 917 7400 or writing to us at PO Box 10-362, Wellington.

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This document and the detailed survey results, *Resource Management Act: Two-yearly Survey of Local Authorities 2001/2002*, is available on the Ministry for the Environment's website: www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/annual-survey/index.html



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Fisheries



THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

**KEY FACTS ABOUT LOCAL AUTHORITIES
& RESOURCE CONSENTS IN 2001/2002**

RESOURCE CONSENTS



Local authorities provide the Ministry for the Environment with information about the resource consents they process.

- Local authorities received 52,935 applications for resource consents in 2001/02 of which 49,012 were processed through to a decision (1,225 applications were withdrawn by applicants).
- 274 (0.6%) resource consents were declined.
- 2,921 (6.0%) resource consents were publicly notified, an increase from the 2,417 (5.0%) that were publicly notified in 1999/2000.
- 84% of resource consent applications were able to be processed by local authority officers ie, without the need to engage at councillor or commissioner level.
- 893 (1.8%) of all resource consent decisions were appealed to the Environment Court – 486 (1.1%) were appealed in 1999/2000.

RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS PROCESSED IN 2001/02

Type of resource consent	Subdivision consent	Land use consent	Coastal permit	Water permit	Discharge permit	TOTAL CONSENTS
Total number of applications	9,944	30,403	2,512	3,023	3,130	49,012



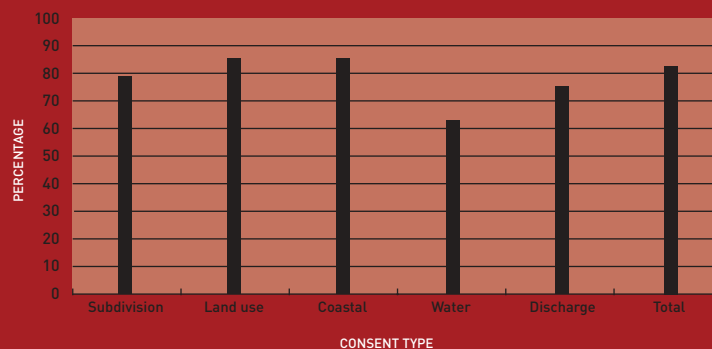
CONSENTS PROCESSED WITHIN TIME

The RMA sets standard timeframes (statutory time limits) for the processing of resource consents.

- 82% of all resource consents were processed within statutory time limits.
- 69% of publicly notified consents were processed within statutory time limits – an improvement from the 63% processed within time in 1999/2000.
- To complete the consent process, further information was requested from 35% of resource consent applicants.
- When further information is requested, 79% of local authorities process the resource consent within the original timeframe ie, the clock isn't reset to zero.



PERCENTAGE OF RESOURCE CONSENTS PROCESSED WITHIN TIME 2001/02

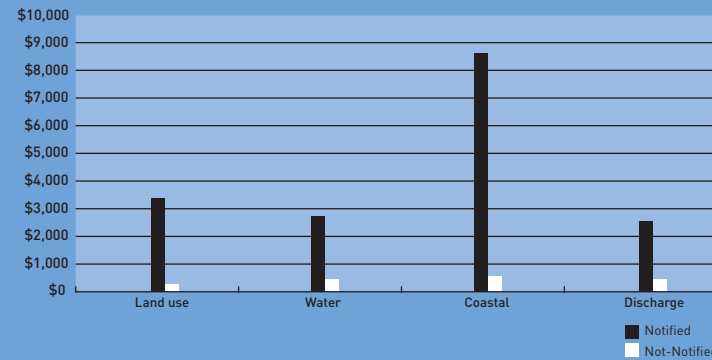


CHARGES TO APPLICANTS FOR RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

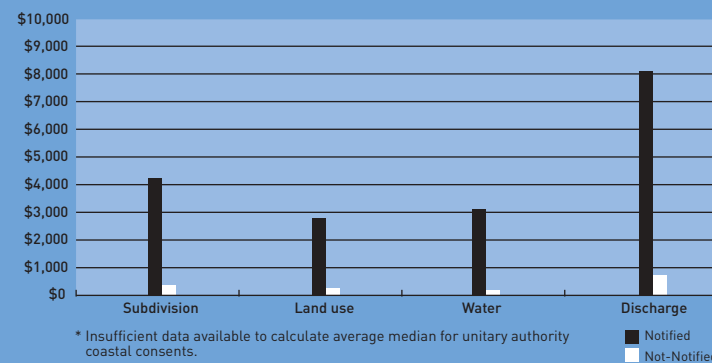


Consent charges vary depending on the type of consent (eg, whether the consent is notified or non-notified, which type of local authority issued the consent).

AVERAGE MEDIAN CHARGE FOR CONSENTS ISSUED BY REGIONAL COUNCILS IN 2001/02

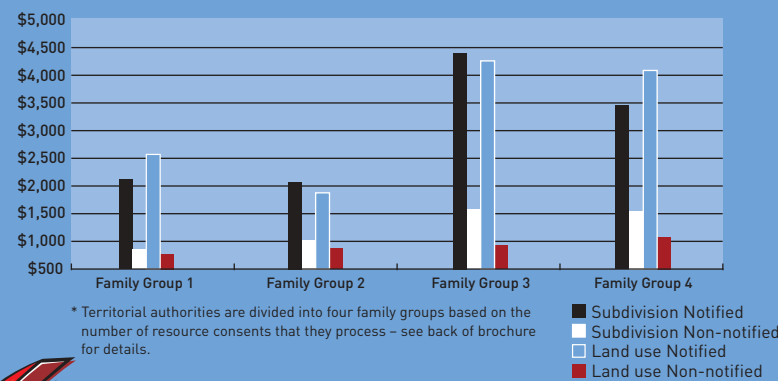


AVERAGE MEDIAN CHARGE FOR CONSENTS ISSUED BY UNITARY AUTHORITIES IN 2001/02*



* Insufficient data available to calculate average median for unitary authority coastal consents.

AVERAGE MEDIAN CHARGE FOR CONSENTS ISSUED BY TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES IN 2001/02*



* Territorial authorities are divided into four family groups based on the number of resource consents that they process – see back of brochure for details.



GOOD PRACTICE BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The results of the RMA survey are used to highlight and monitor the use of best practice by local authorities.

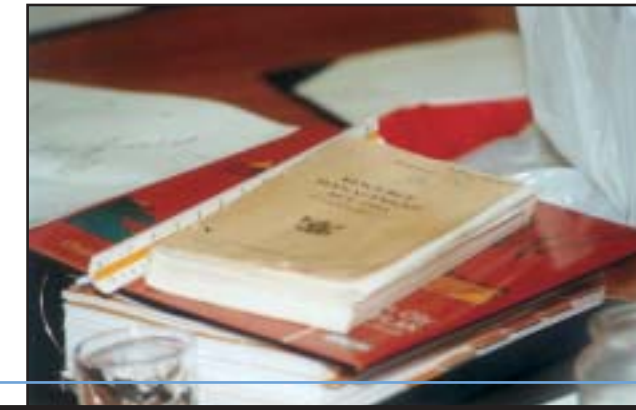
- 88% of local authorities formally receive resource consent applications within one full working day of their arrival at the council office ie, the consent process began within one day of consent applications being lodged. This is an improvement from the 80% in 1999/2000.
- 79% of local authorities do not reset the resource consent processing time-limit clock back to zero once they receive requested further information from applicants. This best practice has improved from the 72% of local authorities that did not reset the clock to zero in 1999/2000.
- 85% of local authorities formally monitor and report consent processing performance and make the results available to ratepayers.

MAORI PARTICIPATION IN RMA PROCESSES



Under the RMA local authorities have an obligation to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

- 49% of local authorities made a formal budgetary commitment to Maori/Iwi participation in resource management processes.
- The average specified budgetary commitment made by local authorities for Maori/Iwi participation in RMA processes is \$69,845. This is an increase from \$49,981 in 1999/2000.
- 59% of local authorities provide their staff with guidance on matters of consultation and notification where Maori/Iwi are likely to be affected parties in a resource consent application.



MONITORING, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Monitoring the state of the environment, the effectiveness of policy and plans, resource consents and complaints is a requirement of local authorities under the RMA.

PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES UNDERTAKING MONITORING

Local authority type	Monitor state of the environment	Monitor plans /policies	Monitor consent conditions	Monitor complaints
Regional	100%	75%	100%	100%
Territorial	48%	61%	97%	88%
Unitary	80%	60%	80%	80%

- 72% of resource consents requiring monitoring during the survey period complied with their consent conditions.
- 85 local authorities issued 620 infringement notices in 2001/02: 326 were defended (appealed) in the Environment Court, 47 were not proceeded with, the remainder were paid directly or were still in progress at the end of the survey period.