

Executive summary

- 53,688 resource consents were applied for in the 1998/99 financial year. This is approximately 6,500 fewer than last year.
- 49,152 resource consents were processed during 1998/99, approximately 8,900 fewer than last year.
- 5% of resource consents were notified – no change from 1997/98 or 1996/97.
- Pre-hearing meetings were held for 22% of all notified consent applications, compared with 24% in the previous year.
- Local authority officers made 84% of decisions on resource consent applications.
- Less than 1% of all resource consent applications were declined. 1% of all resource consent decisions were appealed – no change from 1997/98.
- 39% of appeals related to resource consent conditions only.
- Of the appeals heard by the Environment Court, 40% were upheld in their entirety.
- 65% of local authorities formally receive resource consent applications within one full working day of their arriving at the council office (i.e. the clock started within one day of consent applications being lodged). This is a 3% increase from last year.
- Further information was requested for 28% of resource consents processed in 1998/99. This is a 6% increase from last year. 42% of local authorities have mechanisms in place to minimise the number of requests for further information.
- 63% of local authorities do not reset the resource consent processing time-limit clock back to zero once they receive further information and/or hold a pre-hearing meeting – a 12% decrease from 1997/98.
- 82% of all resource consents were processed within statutory time limits in 1998/99 – an increase of 4% from last year.
- Only 55% of all notified consents were processed within statutory time limits.
- Section 37 was only used to extend statutory time limits for 3% of total resource consents processed – no change from last year.
- The majority of district plan production costs are incurred during the appeal stage. The most costly stage of regional plan and policy statement production appears to be the notification phase.
- 65% of all local authorities base their charges to resource consent applicants on the split between public and private benefit identified in their funding policies. The remainder, 35%, base their charges on the actual cost of processing the consent.

- 61% of local authorities often or always provide potential applicants with an estimate of the cost of applying for a resource consent if requested.
- 42% of local authorities will return a deficient application to the applicant before formally receiving it.
- 63% of local authorities follow a set process to check that environmental effects are adequately identified and addressed in the applicant's Assessment of Environmental Effects.
- 59% of local authorities use customer satisfaction surveys to find out what applicants think of their resource consent process – an increase of 11% from 1997/98. 50% of local authorities who undertook these surveys used this level of customer satisfaction as an indication of performance – an increase of 9% from last year.
- 58% of local authorities had undertaken work towards the development of a plan effectiveness monitoring strategy in 1998/99.
- 17% of complaints were dealt with through formal enforcement processes and 38% were dealt with informally. 45% of complaints had either not been responded to, or resolved before the end of the 1998/99 year.
- 92% of breaches of consent conditions were dealt with informally in 1998/99 and 4% were dealt with through formal enforcement processes. A further 4% were not dealt with either formally or informally.
- 63% of local authorities made a formal budgetary commitment to Maori/iwi participation in resource management processes – an increase of 5% from last year.
- 86% of all local authorities have included provisions in their plans that enable them to recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and tradition with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.
- 66% of local authorities provide guidance for their staff for determining when Maori/iwi are likely to be affected parties in a resource consent application and should therefore be notified.
- 98 resource consent applications that affected statutory acknowledgements under the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 were received by 11 local authorities in 1998/99.
- As at 1 June 2000, 62 plans and policy statements were recorded as fully operative – an increase from the 43 recorded as being operative as at 1 January 1999.