

Executive summary

- 52,933 resource consents were applied for in the 1999/00 financial year. This is approximately 750 fewer than last year.
- 48,045 resource consents were processed during 1999/00, approximately 1,100 fewer than last year.
- 5% of resource consents were notified – no change from 1998/99, 1997/98 or 1996/97.
- Pre-hearing meetings were held for 18% of all notified consent applications, compared with 22% in 1998/99 and 24% in 1997/98.
- Local authority officers made 84% of decisions on resource consent applications – no change from 1998/99.
- Less than 1% of all resource consent applications were declined and 1% of all resource consent decisions were appealed – no change from 1998/99 or 1997/98.
- 23% of appeals on resource consent decisions related to resource consent conditions only, a 16% decline from last year.
- Of the appeals heard by the Environment Court, 31% were upheld in their entirety, compared with 40% last year.
- 80% 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 15% increase from last year.
- Further information was requested for 33% of resource consents processed in 1999/00. This is a 5% increase from last year and an 11% increase from 1997/98.
- 72% of local authorities do not reset the resource consent processing time-limit clock back to zero once they receive further information, compared with 63% in 1998/99.

82% of all resource consents were processed within statutory time limits in 1999/00 -no change from 1998/99.

63% of all notified consents were processed within statutory time limits, an 8% improvement from last year.

- Section 37 was used to extend statutory time limits for 6% of total resource consents processed – a 3% increase from last year.

The majority of costs in both district and regional plan development are incurred during the pre-draft stage.

- 86% of local authorities provide potential applicants with an estimate of the cost of applying for a resource consent if so requested. Last year's survey found that 61% of local authorities often or always provided potential applicants with an estimate of the cost of applying for a resource consent if requested.
- 64% 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, compared with 63% last year.
- 59% of local authorities use customer satisfaction surveys to find out what applicants think of their resource consent process – no change from last year. 77% of local authorities that undertook these surveys used this level of customer satisfaction as an indication of performance – an increase of 27% from last year.
- 21% of complaints about alleged breaches of the RMA were dealt with through formal enforcement processes (compared with 17% last year) and 78% were dealt with informally or were minor matters not requiring further action
- 85% of breaches of consent conditions were dealt with informally in 1999/00 (compared with 92% last year) and 3% were dealt with through formal enforcement processes (compared with 4% last year)
- 65% of local authorities made a formal budgetary commitment to Maori/iwi participation in resource management processes – an increase of 2% from last year.
- 61% 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. This is down slightly on the 64% recorded last year.
- 381 resource consent applications that affected statutory acknowledgements under the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 were received by 17 local authorities in 1999/00. This is up from the 98 received by 11 local authorities in 1998/99.
- As at 1 May 2001, 76 plans and policy statements were recorded as fully operative - an increase from the 62 recorded as being operative as at 1 June 2000.