



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Resource Management Act: Two-yearly Survey of Local Authorities 2003/2004

Published in April 2005 by the
Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao
PO Box 10-362
Wellington
New Zealand

ISBN: 0-478-25906-9

ME number: 592

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Acknowledgements

The Ministry for the Environment would like to thank all councils for participating in the survey. We appreciate that some councils were dealing with changes to their information management systems including databases at the time of the survey. Other councils faced resource issues at the time the survey was due. The Ministry appreciates the time and effort that councils put into completing the *Resource Management Act: Two-yearly Survey of Local Authorities 2003/2004*.

The Ministry would also like to thank a number of external peer reviewers who contributed to the production of this report. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of John Engel (Environment Southland), Keith Hovell (Gore District Council), Kirsty Ferguson (Greater Wellington Regional Council) and Suzette Vanaswegen (Kaikoura District Council).

Disclaimer

Please note that while every effort has been made to ensure that this report is as clear and accurate as possible, the Ministry for the Environment will not be held responsible for any action arising from its use. Limitations associated with the information contained in this report are noted in the report and the reader should refer to these notes.

The information contained within this report is based on responses provided by local authorities to the *Resource Management Act: Two-yearly Survey of Local Authorities 2003/2004*.

Foreword

I am pleased to be able to present this the seventh *Resource Management Act: Survey of Local Authorities*, produced by the Ministry for the Environment with the assistance of the local and regional authorities. We continue to refine the process so that the survey is easier to administer and answer and so the results will be more useful. This survey has new questions, a more streamlined verification process and a dedicated analyst dealing with the survey at the Ministry for the Environment.

I thank those council staff at the grass roots who were charged with managing the collation and return of the results for your individual councils. It was a demanding exercise and for some councils more so than others. We acknowledge busy people at a pressing time of year, and we appreciate the efforts that you made.

The results of the RMA survey help monitor the effect and implementation of the RMA. The Ministry for the Environment uses the results to highlight trends for RMA processes and as well as promote good practice. Councils too benefit from the survey. The survey provides a useful check of internal systems and processes and is useful when answering public enquiries.

I encourage you to make use of it where you can. When making comparisons be mindful of comparing equivalent councils and do make use of the good practice commentary throughout the report.



Hon Marian L Hobbs

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Executive summary

Resource consents

- 54,658 resource consents were processed through to a decision over the 2003/2004 financial year, an 11.5% (5,646) increase in the total number of resource consents processed through to a decision in 2001/2002 (49,012).
- 4.8% (2,628) resource consents were publicly notified during 2003/2004 – a decrease from the 6% (2,921) publicly notified in 2001/2002.
- The 2003/2004 financial year saw the introduction of limited notification as an alternative to full notification. 0.7% (380) of resource consents have been processed since its introduction in August 2003.
- 24% of consents processed through to a decision were for Controlled Activities, 66% for Discretionary Activities (including Restricted Discretionary Activities) and 11% for Non-Complying Activities.
- Pre-hearing meetings were held for 25% of all notified resource consents processed, compared with 19% in 2001/2002.
- Local authority officers acting under delegated authority made 87% of decisions on resource consent applications compared to 84% in 2001/2002.
- 0.7% (404) of resource consent applications were declined in 2003/2004 – an increase from the 0.56% (274) resource consent applications declined in 2001/2002.
- 1.2% (651) of resource consent decisions were appealed to the Environment Court in 2003/2004 – a decrease from the 1.8% (893) that were appealed in 2001/2002.

Time

- 84% of local authorities formally received resource consent applications within one full working day of their arriving at the council office, i.e. processing the consent began within one day of consent application being lodged, compared to 88% in 2001/2002.
- All 86 local authorities monitored whether resource consents were processed within statutory time limits in 2003/2004. Of these 43% monitored weekly and 43% monthly. 12% used other methods (for example daily, continually, annually or a combination of these).
- 77% of all resource consents were processed within statutory time limits.
- 56% of all notified consents were processed within statutory time limits in 2003/2004 compared to 69% in 2001/2002.
- 74% of all consents using the limited notification process were processed within statutory time limits in 2003/2004.
- 78% of non-notified consents were processed within statutory time limits, compared to 83% in 2001/2002.
- Section 37 was used to extend statutory time limits for 12.6% of the total resource consents processed – compared to 6% in 2001/2002.

Cost

- Over 2003/2004 median charges for resource consents varied depending on the consent types and type of issuing local authority.

Good practice in resource consent processing

- 90% (77) of local authorities in 2003/2004 define the environmental effects that must be addressed in consent applications for controlled and restricted discretionary activities. This compares to 81% (70) local authorities in 2001/2002.
- 69% (59) of local authorities indicated that they follow a structured process (such as using checklists) to ensure that environmental effects are adequately identified and addressed in Assessments of Environmental Effects compared to 64% (55) local authorities over 2001/2002.
- 65% (55) of local authorities indicated that guidance notes or checklists are available to staff making decisions on whether to notify an application, compared with 73% (63) local authorities in 2001/2002.
- 57% (49) of local authorities advised they have internal guidance notes or checklists available to staff on how to identify affected parties, the same as reported in the 2001/2002 survey.
- 79% (68) of local authorities formally monitored and reported consent processing performance, the results of which are made available to ratepayers – compared to the 85% (73) of local authorities who undertook monitoring and reporting in 2001/2002.

Enforcement and compliance

- 58% of complaints were dealt with informally compared to 75% in 2001/2002.
- Those councils able to provide information on compliance indicated that 74% of all resource consents that required monitoring complied with resource consent conditions in 2003/2004 compared to 72% in 2001/2002.

Māori participation

- 56% of local authorities made a formal budgetary commitment to Māori/iwi participation in resource management processes compared to 49% over 2001/2002.
- 65% of local authorities provided staff guidance when determining if Māori/iwi are likely to be affected parties in a resource consent application and should therefore be notified. This compares with 59% in 2001/2002.
- 789 resource consent applications that affected statutory acknowledgements under the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 were received by 12 local authorities in 2003/2004. This compares to 589 in 2001/2002.

Introduction

This is the seventh *Resource Management Act: Two-yearly Survey of Local Authorities 2003/2004 (RMA Survey of Local Authorities)*.

The survey, run annually up until 1999/2000, is now run every two years. This report covers activity in the financial year beginning 1 July 2003 through to 30 June 2004, the period referred to in the report as the year 2003/2004. All 86 local authorities responded to the questionnaire, a 100% response rate.

In August 2003 substantial amendments to the Resource Management Act came into force. One amendment introduced a new limited notification process to consent processing. Councils are now able to return incomplete or inadequate resource consent applications to the applicants (thereby reducing the number of section 92 further information requests and, theoretically, the number of consents that may otherwise have been declined).

Because the amendments came into force after the commencement of the survey period, the figures obtained do not represent a full year's data on amendment use. It is expected that the full effect of the amendments will be borne out in the next biennial survey.

Purpose of the survey

The purpose of the *RMA Survey of Local Authorities* is to:

- Assist the Minister for the Environment to monitor the effect and implementation of the Resource Management Act (RMA)
- Provide the Ministry for the Environment and local authorities with information that:
 - highlights areas that may need further research and assist with research projects
 - highlights trends over time for some key processes under the RMA
 - provides a basis for considering comments on the RMA, including general enquiries and ministerial letters
- Promote local authority good practice and improved performance in terms of benchmarks established in the RMA and/or guidance produced by the Ministry for the Environment
- Provide local authorities with information so they can more accurately respond to criticism about RMA processes
- Enable individual local authorities to compare their own performance with their peers.

The survey does not measure the performance of the RMA or the performance of individual local authorities in delivering better environmental outcomes. Local authority state of the environment monitoring and reporting provides information about environmental quality and the achievement of environmental outcomes on a district and regional basis.

Responses from local authorities are compared to:

- Identify local authorities complying with statutory requirements and recommended good practice
- Stimulate discussion about any variance in results between like local authorities
- Promote benchmarking and performance improvement.

The 2003/2004 questionnaire

As with the previous survey, the 2003/2004 questionnaire was made available on-line. Eighty-four authorities entered their response directly onto the on-line questionnaire while two councils sent their response using the paper-based format. Respondents were generally satisfied with the internet response option and some suggestions were made as to how it could be improved.

The survey questionnaire was divided into the following sections:

- Resource consent processing statistics
- Time
- Cost
- Monitoring and enforcement
- Māori participation in RMA processes
- Good practice in resource consent processing.

Three new questions were asked in the 2003/2004 RMA survey:

- Question 1.6 – resource consents by activity type
- Question 5.4 – number of resource consents where formal consultation with iwi was undertaken
- Question 6.14 – level of customer satisfaction on resource consent processing performance.

The core questions on *resource consent processing statistics* and *time* (sections one and two of the survey) were similar to previous surveys with the addition of the Limited Notification process which covers all processing options. Local authorities should be familiar with these questions and have systems in place to capture most of the required information.

Local authority family groups

Where appropriate, results are reported in family groups of local authorities to enable comparisons to be made between those authorities with similar characteristics. These six local authority family groups are the same as those used in the past two surveys:

- Regional councils
- Unitary authorities, including the Chatham Islands District Council
- Territorial authorities that process similar numbers of consents:
 - Group 1: 0 – 110 consents
 - Group 2: 111 – 300 consents
 - Group 3: 301 – 650 consents
 - Group 4: 651 – 7,000 consents.

Appendix 1 presents the family group each local authority has been placed in, along with the number of consents they processed.

Data presentation

Throughout the report ($n=$) indicates the number of local authorities that answered each question. When comparing survey data over time spans note that the last two surveys (2001/2002 and 2003/2004) were carried out biennially, while previous surveys were conducted on an annual basis. Changes in the survey questionnaire do not allow all results to be presented for these years. In these instances the most recent available data has been used. A full report on the results of each survey is available on the Ministry for the Environment website www.mfe.govt.nz.

Some results are presented in graphs rather than tables to make it easier for local authorities to compare performance with their peers. If a local authority did not answer a particular question, that authority is omitted from the relevant graph.

Local authority good practice

Local authority good practice recommendations are included throughout the report and are highlighted in a black box.

Limitations of the 2003/2004 survey

There was some variation in interpretation of the survey questions by local authorities. Some respondents had difficulties answering questions when the information required was not recorded or held in a format that could be readily extracted.

Not all local authorities have developed data collection systems to record basic RMA data. A number of local authorities advised that they could not answer questions about the consent activity type and/or cost. This means that for a number of questions a full picture of the local authorities throughout the country cannot be presented.

Section 35 of the RMA requires every local authority to gather sufficient information to fulfil their functions under the Act; this includes recording details of each resource consent granted by it [(35(5)(g)–(h)] and the exercise of those consents [(35(2)(d)]. This information is vital for supporting local authority decisions and performs an important audit function. It can also be used to:

- Identify areas where improvements can be made in local authority practice
- Monitor local authority performance
- Maintain consistency in procedures
- Provide local ratepayers with a credible and transparent record of their performance.

Resource consent processing statistics

This section reports on:

- Resource consents processed
- Changes to consent conditions
- Notification of resource consents
- Resource consents by activity type
- Requests for further information
- Pre-hearing meetings
- Resource consent decisions
- Resource consents declined and appealed.

Resource consents processed

54,658 consents were processed through to a decision in 2003/2004. This is 11.5% (5,646) more consents than in 2001/2002 (49,012). Territorial authorities processed 72.4% of resource consents with regional councils processing 19.7% and unitary authorities 7.9%.

Table 1 shows the change in consent numbers processed by each local authority type over the four previous surveys. Note: Appendix 1 reports the number of consents processed by each local authority in local authority family groups.

REFER TABLE 1

As with previous surveys, the majority of resource consents processed were for land use and subdivision consents. Over the last four surveys there has been a gradual increase in the proportion of land use consents. The proportion of subdivision consents increased in 2003/2004, offsetting a downward trend between 1998/1999 and 2001/2002 (see Table 2).

REFER TABLE 2

1,251 certificates of compliance (issued under section 139 of the RMA) were processed in 2003/2004 compared to 1,069 reported in the 2001/2002 survey.

Table 1: Number of resource consents processed by local authority type

Local authority type	Total consents processed			
	1997/1998	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004
Regional councils	9,510	8,037	11,643	10,794
Territorial authorities	44,975	36,000	33,159	39,556
Unitary authorities	3,575	4,008	4,210	4,308
Total	58,060	48,045	49,012	54,658

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000 and 1997/1998.

Table 2: Percentage of resource consents processed by consent type

Survey Period	Subdivision consent %	Land use consent %	Coastal permit %	Water permit %	Discharge permit %
2003/2004 (n=86)	24	63	3	5	6
2001/2002 (n=86)	20	62	5	6	6
1999/2000 (n=86)	26	61	3	4	5
1998/1999 (n=86)	31	59	2	4	5

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000 and 1998/1999.

Note: Due to rounding, not all percentages in rows will add to 100%.

Changes to consent conditions

Local authorities were asked for the number of applications for changes to resource consent conditions (section 127 of the RMA). In 2003/2004 local authorities ($n=86$) processed 2,223 applications, an increase from the 1,690 processed in 2001/2002 ($n=83$). In 2003/2004, 6.9% of changes to resource consent conditions were publicly notified. Table 3 provides details on the proportion of applications for changes to consent conditions processed by each local authority type and the percentage notified by each local authority type.

Note the statistics regarding notification of applications for changes to consent conditions must be treated with some caution as the question did not provide for the introduction of the limited notification process during the survey period. Some local authorities may not have included applications which followed the limited notification process in their counting.

REFER TABLE 3

Public notification of resource consents

Over 2003/2004 local authorities reported 4.8% (2,628) of resource consents were publicly notified compared to 6% (2,921) over 2001/2002. Proportionately, the most frequently notified consents in 2003/2004 were coastal (26%), water (26%) and discharge (11%).

REFER TABLE 4

Table 3: Applications for changes to consent conditions processed by each local authority type and by proportion notified

Local authority type	1999/2000 (n=75)		2001/2002 (n=83)		2003/2004 (n=86)	
	% processed by each local authority type	Proportion notified %	% processed by each local authority type	Proportion notified %	% processed by each local authority type	Proportion notified %
Regional councils	34.1	4.3	39.7	11	27.4	8.5
Territorial authorities	60.4	9.4	54.9	5.3	63.5	3.0
Unitary authorities	5.5	6.7	5.4	8.8	9.1	29.1

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004, 2001/2002, 1999/2000.

Table 4: Percentage of consents publicly notified by consent type

Survey Period	Subdivision consent %	Land use consent %	Coastal permit %	Water permit %	Discharge permit %	Total %
2003/2004 (n=86)	3	3	26	26	11	5
2001/2002 (n=86)	5	3	21	15	18	6
1999/2000 (n=86)	4	3	17	15	17	5
1997/1998 (n=83)	3	4	15	24	21	5

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000 and 1997/1998.

Table 5: Percentage of consents publicly notified by local authority type

Local authority type	% notified			
	1997/1998 (n=85)	1999/2000 (n=86)	2001/2002 (n=86)	2003/2004 (n=86)
Regional councils	14	11	10	9
Unitary authorities	10	9	17	16
Territorial authorities	3	3	3	2

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000 and 1997/1998.

Table 6: Percentage of resource consents by activity type within each local authority type

Local authority type	Activity type		
	% Controlled	% Discretionary*	% Non-complying
Regional councils	27	72	1
Territorial authorities	23	65	12
Unitary authorities	24	63	13
All	24	66	11

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.
* Includes Restricted Discretionary.

Table 7: Percentage of total resource consents processed where further information was requested

Year	1995/1996 (n=54)	1996/1997 (n=73)	1997/1998 (n=76)	1998/1999 (n=82)	1999/2000 (n=82)	2001/2002 (n=86)	2003/2004 (n=86)
% of total consents where further information requested	22	39	22	28	33	35	35

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000, 1998/1999, 1997/1998, 1996/1997 and 1995/1996.

Table 5 presents the percentage of resource consents publicly notified by local authority type. Regional councils and unitary authorities have a higher public notification rate than territorial authorities. This is due to regional councils and unitary authorities frequently processing resource consents relating to public resources (water, air, coast) as opposed to private resources such as land.

REFER TABLE 5

Resource consents by activity type

For the 2003/2004 RMA survey a new question was added asking how many resource consents were processed to a decision by activity type or status. Results from councils show that discretionary activities comprised close to two-thirds (66%) of all resource consent applications processed through to a decision, followed by 24% for controlled activities and (11%) non-complying activities. Table 6 shows the proportion for each activity type by each local authority type.

REFER TABLE 6

Note that in Table 6 applications involving activities with more than one status have been processed according to the most restrictive of the status types. Where multiple consents have been applied for in respect of the same project (for example a land use consent, and earthworks consent and subdivision consent for a large residential development) each consent type was treated as an individual consent.

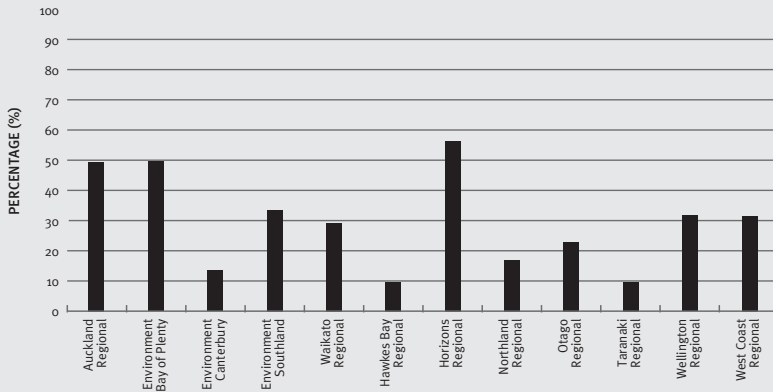
Requests for further information

Local authorities reported that they requested further information (under section 92) for 35% of resource consents processed in 2003/2004, the same proportion as reported in the 2001/2002 survey.

REFER TABLE 7

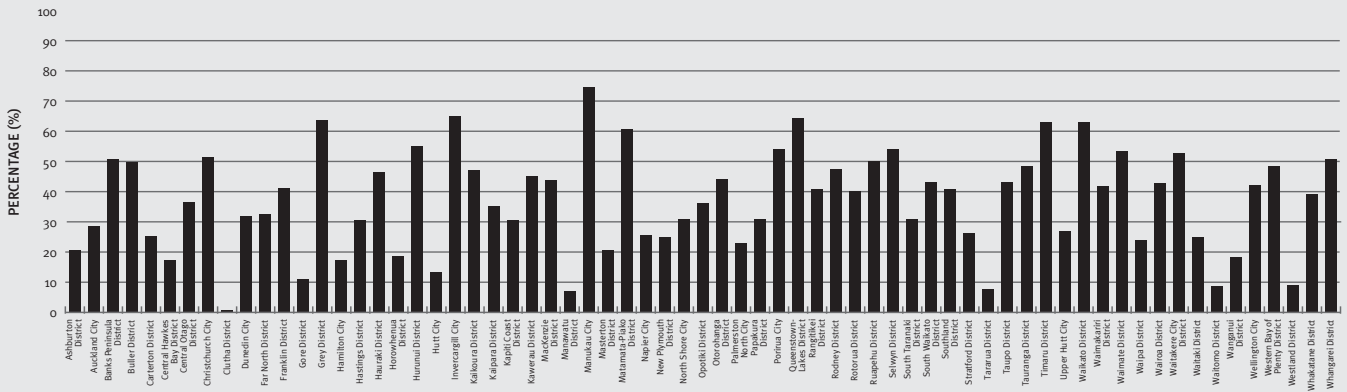
REFER FIGURES 1-3

Figure 1: Regional council requests for further information as a percentage of total resource consents 2003/2004



Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

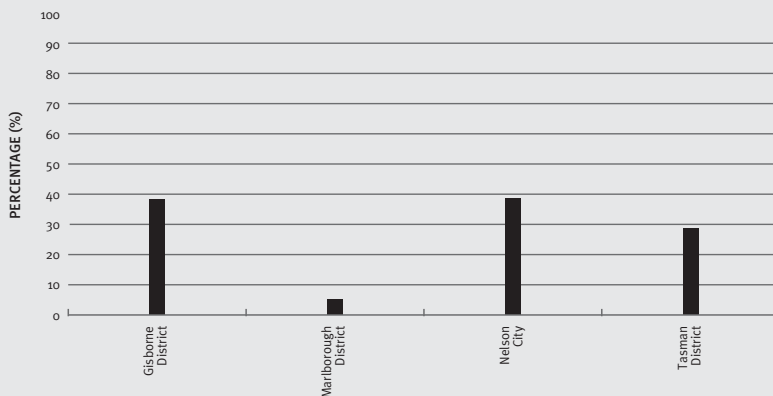
Figure 2: Territorial authority requests for further information as a percentage of total resource consents 2003/2004



Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Note: South Wairarapa District Council and Thames-Coromandel District Council are omitted from Figure 2, due to a non-response for this question.

Figure 3: Unitary authority requests for further information as a percentage of total resource consents 2003/2004



Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Note: Chatham Island Council had no requests for further information in this period.

Table 8: Percentage of notified resource consents for which a pre-hearing meeting was held by local authority type

Local authority type	% notified consents where a pre-hearing was held			
	1997/1998 (n=80)	1999/2000 (n=85)	2001/2002 (n=86)	2003/2004 (n=86)
Regional councils	37	33	35	39
Territorial authorities	12	12	11	9
Unitary authorities	3	3	3	27

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000 and 1997/1998.

Pre-hearing meetings

Local authorities were asked to provide the number of pre-hearing meetings held and the number which resulted in no hearing being required.

647 pre-hearing meetings were held in 2003/2004, compared to 546 in 2001/2002.

Pre-hearing meetings are a good practice tool for clarifying, mediating or facilitating resolution of an issue associated with an application for resource consent. While it may not always be appropriate to hold a pre-hearing meeting, they save the local authority, submitters, and the applicant time and costs in the resource consent process as well as improve the quality of the decisions that are made in respect of the application.

163 (25%) pre-hearing meetings resolved the issue to the extent that no formal hearing was necessary. This is an increase from that recorded in 2001/2002 (23%) but is lower than the previous two surveys in 1999/2000 (35%) and 1998/1999 (40%).

Pre-hearing meetings were held for 24.6% of all notified resource consent applications, compared with 19% in 2001/2002 and 18% in 1999/2000. These figures do not include informal meetings which are frequently used by local authorities to assist the resource consent process. As with previous surveys, regional councils remain the most frequent users of pre-hearing meetings.

REFER TABLE 8

Table 9: Percentage of resource consent decisions made by decision maker, local authority type

Local authority type	Local authority officers		Independent commissioners		Councillors acting as commissioners		Councillors as part of a hearings panel		Other (e.g. mixed panel of councillors/commissioners)	
	01/02	03/04	01/02	03/04	01/02	03/04	01/02	03/04	01/02	03/04
Regional councils	91%	90%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%	6%	2%	2%
Territorial authorities	85%	90%	1%	1%	8%	5%	5%	4%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Unitary authorities	53%	54%	1%	1%	29%	41%	5%	4%	12%	0%
Total	84%	87%	1%	1%	8%	7%	5%	4%	2%	<1.0%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000.

Table 10: Number and percentage of resource consent decisions appealed by local authority type

Local authority type	Number and percentage of resource consents appealed					
	1999/2000		2001/2002		2003/2004	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Regional councils	96	1.2	437	3.6	308	2.9
Territorial authorities	329	0.9	371	1.1	308	0.8
Unitary authorities	61	1.5	85	2.0	35	0.8
Totals	486	1.0	893	1.8	651	1.2

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000.

Resource consent decisions

In 2003/2004 ($n=85$) the majority (87%) of decisions on resource consent applications were made by local authority officers acting under delegated authority. Regional councils and territorial authorities both reported that 90% of their resource consent decisions are made by local authority officers acting under delegated authority.

REFER TABLE 9

Resource consents declined and appealed

Local authorities reported that in 2003/2004 0.7% (404) of the resource consent applications processed were declined compared to 0.56% (274) in 2001/2002.

Decisions made on resource consent can be appealed to the Environment Court under section 120 of the RMA. In the current survey 1.2% (651) of all decisions made on resource consents in 2003/2004 were appealed, down from 1.8% (893) in 2001/2002. Over 2003/2004 the proportion of decisions appealed varied between regional councils (2.9%), territorial authorities and unitary authorities (0.8%).

REFER TABLE 10

Time

This section reports on:

- Checking applications are complete
- Formal receipt of applications
- Resource consent applications processed within statutory time limits
- Notified limited and non-notified resource consent applications processed within time limits
- Median time taken to process consents
- Use of section 37 to extend time limits.

The timeframes used in this survey to define whether an application was processed within time are described in sections 88B, 95, 97, 101 and 115 of the Resource Management Act. If one part of the consent process falls outside the statutory time for that phase, but the entire consent is processed within the overall upper time limit, for the purposes of this survey it is considered as processed within time.

Checking applications are complete

In 2003/2004, 76% (65) local authorities checked applications for completeness within one working day of the application arriving at the local authority's office, compared to 72% local authorities in 2001/2002 and 76% in 1999/2000. The local authorities adopting this good practice are listed in Appendix 4.

Checking for completeness should involve a scan of the application to determine if all the information required to process the application is included. It does not involve checking the information provided for accuracy or assessing whether further information is required. It is good practice for local authorities to check resource consent applications are complete within one working day of the application arriving at the local authority office.

If an application is not actually complete then it would not technically be an application for the purposes of section 88 of the Act. Local authorities should return these to the applicants, and if the application is lodged again it should be treated as a new application. The Resource Management Amendment Act (2003) states that a local authority can return deficient applications to the applicant within five working days of receiving them (see section 88(3) of the Act).

Formal receipt of applications

Local authorities were asked whether they formally receive¹ (i.e. start the time limit clock) resource consent applications within one working day. 84% (72) local authorities advised that they did, compared to 88% (76) local authorities in 2001/2002, 80% in 1999/2000, and 62% in 1997/1998. The local authorities adopting this good practice procedure are identified in Appendix 4.

Resource consent applications processed within statutory time limits

In 2003/2004, 77% of all resource consents were processed within statutory time limits compared to 82% in 2001/2002, 1999/2000 and 1998/1999 and 78% in 1997/1998. This includes resource consents where the time limits were formally extended by councils under section 37 of the RMA.

¹ The time limit clock begins as soon as the application is received. The Resource Management Amendment Act 2003 clarifies that the processing clock starts on the date the application is first lodged with the local authority (i.e. when it physically arrives at the counter).

Table 11 presents a time-series of each consent type processed within statutory time limits. Compared to the previous survey, discharge consents increased in the proportion processed within time. The other categories, subdivision, land, coastal and water – all decreased in the proportion of time taken. The percentage of coastal permits being processed within time increased significantly in 2001/2002 following the introduction of the aquaculture moratorium.

REFER TABLE 11

Notified, limited-notified, and non-notified resource consents processed within time limits

Over 2003/2004 regional councils processed 84% of resource consents within statutory time limits compared to 76% territorial authorities and 61% unitary authorities.

Limited notification is the colloquial name for a new notification process introduced in the Resource Management Amendment Act in August 2003. It differs from full notification in that copies of the application are only passed on to affected parties and are not open for wider public submission. It is used where the effects of an activity are considered minor and the written approvals of all persons affected by that activity have not been obtained. Activities that have effects which are more than minor require the full public notification process to be followed.

REFER TABLE 12

Appendix 3 provides a full summary of the percentage of notified, limited and non-notified consents processed by individual local authorities within time. The percentages for resource consents processed within time limits should be interpreted with caution where a local authority processes a small number of consents. A consent application may be processed outside of the time limit at the request of the applicant and in this situation does not reflect any inefficiency on the part of the local authority.

Table 11: Percentage of consents processed within statutory time limits by consent type

Survey period	Subdivision %	Land use %	Coastal %	Water %	Discharge %	Total %
2003/2004	74	78	82	60	79	77
2001/2002	79	85	86	63	75	82
1999/2000	79	87	62	67	73	82
1997/1998	77	81	84	61	66	78

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004 and 2001/2002; RMA annual survey of local authorities 1999/2000 and 1997/1998.

Table 12: Percentage of consents processed within statutory time limits by local authority type, 2003/2004

Local authority type	% processed within time limits			Total %
	Full notification %	Limited notification %	Non-notified %	
Regional councils	67	78	85	84
Territorial authorities	56	73	77	76
Unitary authorities	38	82	66	61
Total	56	74	78	77

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Median time taken to process consents

Local authorities were asked to provide the median number of working days taken to process resource consents. This is the second time this information has been collected the first being in the 2001/2002 survey. Eighty three councils responded to this section of the 2003/2004 survey. The results of median time taken are not provided in this report as there are concerns over the accuracy and quality of data captured from councils.

Use of section 37 to extend time limits

In 2003/2004, section 37 was used to extend statutory time limits for 12.6% of the total consents processed, compared to 6% in 2001/2002 and 1999/2000.

The RMA provides for the extension of statutory time limits:

- Section 37A(2)(a) provides for the time limit specified in the Resource Management Act to be exceeded but not by more than twice the maximum specified in the Act
- Section 37A(2)(b) allows a local authority to extend a time limit by more than twice the maximum time period specified in the Act if the applicant agrees or requests.

It is considered good practice to use sections 37 and 37A to extend timeframes rather than allow them to run overtime without any clear guidance being given to the applicant or other interested parties as to when new timeframes have been set.

Note, however, that extensions of time should only be used where there are good reasons and the delay in processing the application is beyond the control of the consent authority. It is good practice to keep the number of extensions to timeframes to a bare minimum so that sections 37–37A use does not just become a matter of course for no reason.

It may be appropriate and good practice to seek time extensions when undertaking further consultation, negotiating consent conditions, to allow a committee of commission time to consider complex applications, or to accept late submissions which add value to the process.

Charges to resource consent applicants

Under the Local Government Act 2002 local authorities must adopt funding and financial policies to provide predictability and certainty about sources and levels of funding. Local authority funding of resource consent processing is predominantly derived from fees and charges to the applicant. Some local authorities may subsidise their fees and costs using other income streams (e.g. rates).

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act allows a local authority to charge for resource consent processing (including receiving and granting resource consents). Such charges must be fixed in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

Charges to applicants for resource consent processing

Local authorities were asked to provide information on minimum, median and maximum charges to resource consent applicants.

Data limitations

The data reported in relation to charges should be treated carefully as there are a number of limitations associated with its use. These limitations are brought about because:

- Some local authorities estimated the median
- Some local authorities provided standard charges rather than the actual amounts that were paid by applicants
- Not all councils could provide minimum, median and maximum charges.

Combined regional council and unitary authority charges to applicants

For the 2003/2004 survey there was a low response to the cost questions from unitary authorities. Therefore unitary authorities have been added to regional councils for cost analysis, even though it is recognised that unitary authorities have functions of both district and regional councils which will see their median, maximum and minimum charges differ. See Table 13.

As regional councils do not process subdivision consents, and there was a low response rate from unitary authorities on costs, there was insufficient data to provide information on subdivision consents in Table 13.

Regional council and unitary authority charges to applicants

The average median charge of regional council and unitary authority notified consents for coastal permits (\$8,841) is higher than that of notified discharge permits (\$5,116), water (\$3,567) or land use (\$3,198). Notified coastal permits have the highest average maximum charge (\$23,265) compared to all consent types listed in Table 13.

The average median charges for non-notified consents issued by regional councils and unitary authorities range from \$350-\$598. The average maximum charge for a non-notified consent was highest for discharge permits (\$6,119) and lowest for a non-notified coastal permit (\$3,915).

Table 13: Regional council and unitary authority: average charges to applicants for resource consent processing

Consent type		Average minimum charge (\$)	Average maximum charge (\$)	Average median (\$)	Number of councils
Land use	Notified	1,298	16,872	3,198	11
	Limited	1,251	1,599	1,414	7
	Non-notified	124	4,146	350	14
Water	Notified	752	11,722	3,567	13
	Limited	1,691	2,323	2,126	8
	Non-notified	106	5,979	577	13
Coastal	Notified	5,160	23,265	8,841	12
	Limited	Insufficient data to analyse			
	Non-notified	161	3,915	383	14
Discharge	Notified	1,106	12,641	5,116	13
	Limited	1,109	2,553	1,653	10
	Non-notified	103	6,119	598	14

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Table 14: Territorial authorities: average charges to applicants for resource consent processing

Consent type		Average minimum charge (\$)	Average maximum charge (\$)	Average median (\$)	Number of councils
Subdivision	Notified	2,974	9,461	4,080	45
	Limited	1,697	2,596	2,326	28
	Non-notified	297	5,242	681	60
Land use	Notified	1,981	15,220	6,047	55
	Limited	1,325	3,850	1,896	43
	Non-notified	173	3,892	407	61

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Territorial authority charges to applicants

The average maximum charge for territorial authority notified consents was higher for land use consents (\$15,220) compared to subdivision consents (\$9,461). The average median charge for territorial local authorities was highest for notified land use consents (\$6,047).

Tables 13 and 14 illustrate the averages of the minimum, maximum and median charges to applicants for each type of resource consent processed. They also present the number of local authorities who responded to each question.

REFER TABLE 13

REFER TABLE 14

Good practice in resource consent processing

One purpose of the RMA survey is to promote local authority good practice and improve performance in resource management functions. This section reports on:

- The pre-application phase of resource consent processing
- The application phase of resource consent processing
 - assessments of environmental effects and notification
 - monitoring processing timeframes
- Customer satisfaction.

The Ministry for the Environment along with partner organisations Local Government New Zealand, the New Zealand Planning Institute, the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors, and the Resource Management Law Association established a website in 2001 to promote good practice in resource management planning in New Zealand. The website has a substantial section (*The Consent Processing Resource*) dedicated to promoting good practice in the processing of resource consents. The site can be accessed at <http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz>.

Pre-application phase of resource consent processing

Ninety percent (77) of local authorities define the environmental effects that must be addressed in consent applications for controlled and restricted discretionary activities in checklists for applicants. This is compared to 81% (70) of local authorities in 2001/2002 and 1999/2000 and 73% in 1998/1999.

Knowing exactly which effects a local authority considers need to be addressed can assist applicants in understanding and writing an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE). This can save time for all parties (the applicant, the local authority and submitters) and may lead to the proposed activity having better environmental outcomes.

Application process

Ninety-one percent (78) of local authorities indicated that before commissioning specialist reports they provided applicants with the opportunity to discuss or dispute the requirements to provide such further information and/or obtain it themselves, compared to 84% (81) local authorities in 2001/2002. This saves applicants paying for a specialist report when the information can be obtained from another source. The Resource Management Amendment Act 2003 clarifies the process by which applicants are notified of the requirement to commission a specialist report. Sections 357 and 358 of the Act clarify the process by which applicants can object to the requirement.

Assessments of Environmental Effects (AEEs) and notification

Local authorities were asked to indicate from a list (see Figure 4) the mechanisms used to ensure adequate identification and assessment of AEEs, identification of affected parties and proper notification. Sixty-nine percent (59) of authorities indicated that they follow a structured process to check that environmental effects are adequately identified and addressed in AEEs, compared to 64% (55) of local authorities in 2001/2002 and 1999/2000 and 53% in 1997/1998. Adhering to a set process helps to ensure that all the necessary steps are followed and completed. This in turn provides consistency from application to application as well as from officer to officer.

Sixty-five percent (55) of local authorities indicated that guidance notes (such as *The Consent Processing Resource*) or checklists are available to staff on when to notify an application. This compares with 73% in 2001/2002, 56% in 1999/2000 and 53% in 1997/1998.

Fifty-seven percent (49) of local authorities advised they have internal guidance notes or checklists available to staff about identifying potentially affected parties compared to 57% in 2001/2002, 44% in 1999/2000 and 47% in 1997/1998. Internal checklists and guidance notes ensure consistent decisions on notification and the identification of affected parties are made.

REFER FIGURE 4

Monitoring processing timeframes

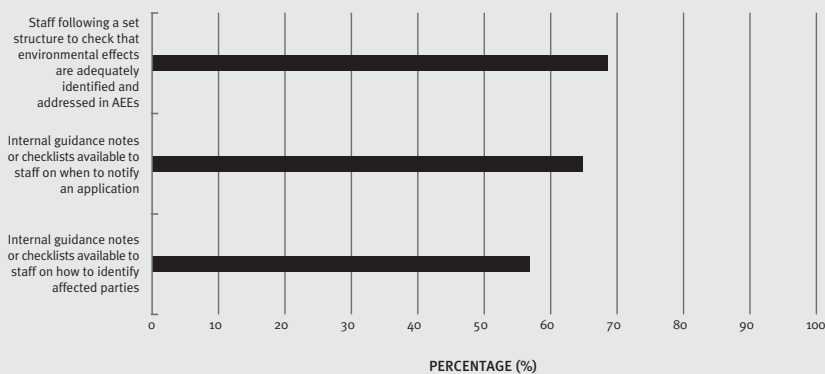
Local authorities were asked if they monitor whether resource consents are processed within statutory time limits. In 2003/2004 all 86 local authorities indicated that they monitor whether consents are processed within statutory time limits. 37 advised they do so weekly, 37 monthly and 12 use other methods (for example daily, continually, annually or a combination of these). In 2001/2002, 83 local authorities (97%) monitored whether consents were processed within statutory time limits. 42 advised they do so weekly, 33 monthly, three not at all, and eight used other methods (for example, daily, continually, or a combination of these).

Local authorities were asked whether they use mechanisms to assist staff to process resource consents within time. Seventy-seven percent (66) of local authorities advised they use mechanisms to assist staff to process resource consents within time compared to 87% in 2001/2002, 72% in 1999/2000, and 70% in 1998/1999.

Local authorities were asked whether they formally monitor and report consent processing performance. Seventy-nine percent (68) of local authorities formally monitor and report consent processing performance, the results of which are made available to ratepayers. This is lower than the 85% in 2001/2002 and 84% recorded in 1999/2000.

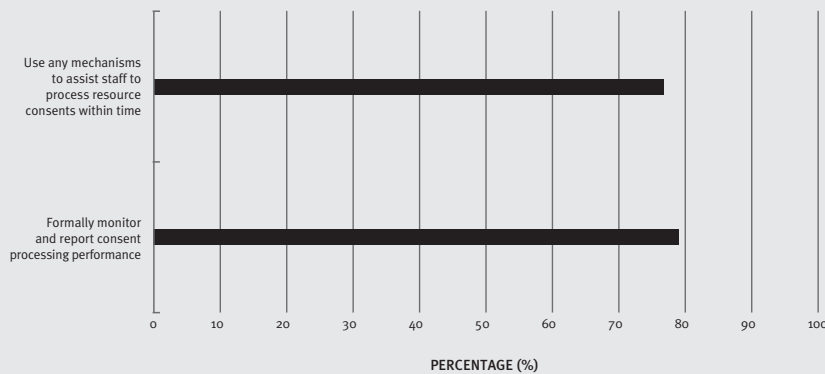
REFER FIGURE 5

Figure 4: Good practice: assessment of environmental effects (AEEs) and notification



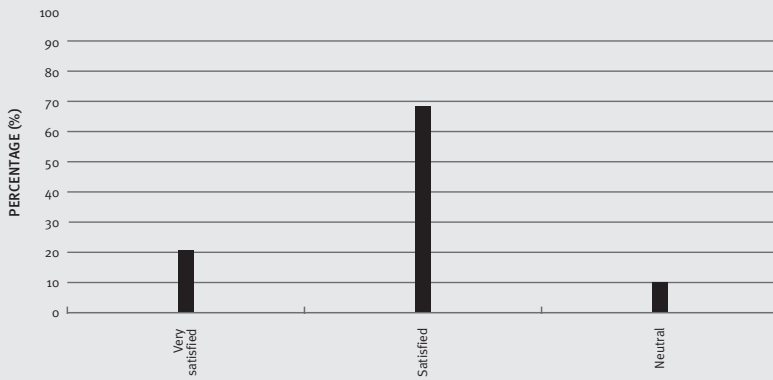
Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Figure 5: Monitoring timeframes



Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Figure 6: Customer satisfaction



Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Customer satisfaction

Local authorities were questioned regarding the practice and usefulness of satisfaction surveys for resource consent processes. Forty-four percent (38) local authorities reported that they used customer satisfaction surveys in 2003/2004 to establish what applicants think of their resource consent processes. This compares to 37% in 2001/2002, 59% in 1999/2000 and 48% in 1997/1998.

Of those 38 that reported that they used customer satisfaction surveys in 2003/2004, zero reported a very dissatisfied level of satisfaction, four neutral, 26 satisfied and eight very satisfied.

REFER FIGURE 6

Monitoring, compliance and enforcement

This section reports on local authority responses to questions about their monitoring and enforcement activities, specifically in relation to:

- Section 35 monitoring
- Joint monitoring with other agencies
- State of the environment monitoring
- Plan effectiveness monitoring
- Complaints and enforcement orders
- Compliance with resource consent condition monitoring
- Infringement notices.

Section 35 monitoring

Monitoring and reporting on policies, processes and environmental outcomes is an important aspect of the RMA and is a required function for local authorities under section 35 of the RMA. Section 35 outlines monitoring responsibilities of local authorities, including monitoring:

- The state of the environment
- The suitability and effectiveness of policy statements and plans
- The exercise of any functions, powers or duties delegated or transferred by the local authority
- Compliance with resource consent conditions.

Sections 35(2A) and 35(2)(b) of the Resource Management Act requires local authorities to report at least once every five years on the results of monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of their policy statement or plan. This may be in the form of an integrated policy/plan and State of the Environment report.

While there is an expectation that information is to be kept and collected for all applications for resource consents, decisions, transfers of consent, complaints and other information under section 35(5), the only timeframe stipulated for the compilation of a report is that in regard to monitoring the effectiveness of policy statements and plans.

The higher proportion of monitoring and reporting by regional councils can be explained by the fact that regional councils often have more plans and policy statements than territorial authorities (who typically have just a district plan). Therefore, a regional council is more likely to have monitored the effectiveness of at least one of their plans in the survey period than a territorial authority.

Table 15: Percentages of local authorities monitoring and reporting in 2003/2004

Local authority type	Percentage monitor and report				
	State of the environment	Suitability and effectiveness of policies and plans	Delegated/transferred functions	Compliance with conditions	Complaints register
Regional	80	80	60	92	100
Territorial	31	29	32	71	66
Unitary	60	0	40	60	80
Total	39	33	36	73	72

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

REFER TABLE 15

Complaints about breaches of the Resource Management Act (RMA)

Local authorities were asked to indicate the number of complaints concerning alleged breaches of the RMA or other resource management incidents. Over 2003/2004, 117,655 complaints² were recorded by the 84 local authorities able to provide this information. This is a 7.3% increase from the 109,609 complaints reported by the 84 local authorities able to provide this information in 2001/2002.

Table 16 compares the numbers of complaints recorded in 2003/2004 with those recorded in 2001/2002. The data reported in this table have a number of limitations. Local authorities have reported problems arising from the collection of complaints data that have impacted upon the accuracy of their responses. Most commonly these were:

- Changes to systems for recording complaints part way through the recording period
- Some systems record both complaints and enquiries
- Some councils did not record where informal action was used to resolve the complaint.

² Complaints include excessive noise complaints.

REFER TABLE 16

Complaint resolution

A number of enforcement options are available for the resolution of complaints relating to breaches of the RMA. These are:

- Enforcement orders
- Abatement notices
- Excessive noise directions
- Prosecutions
- Informal means
- Infringement notices.

Excessive noise complaints can be resolved using excessive noise directions – 20,891 directions were issued in 2003/2004. There were 25 enforcement orders, 889 abatement notices, 887 infringement notices and 31 prosecutions in 2003/2004. Over half of all complaints (58%) were resolved through informal means or were minor administrative matters not requiring further action.

Compliance with resource consent conditions

Sixty percent of resource consents that required monitoring for compliance were monitored in 2003/2004. Of the consents that required monitoring, 74% complied with their consent monitoring conditions.

A total of 9,137 breaches of resource consent conditions were recorded in 2003/2004. Breaches of resource consent conditions were resolved using informal means in 7,366 cases (81%) in 2003/2004. Breaches requiring formal resolution in 2003/2004 included seven enforcement orders, 678 abatement notices, 390 infringement notices and eight prosecutions. Local authorities reported that 568 breaches were still unresolved at the close of the 2003/2004 financial year.

Table 16: Total number of complaints about breaches of the RMA recorded in 2001/2002 and 2003/2004

Local authority type	Complaints recorded		
	2001/2002	2003/2004	% change
Regional councils	11,835	11,383	-4%
Territorial authorities	93,031	100,285	8%
Unitary authorities	4,743	5,987	26%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004, 2001/2002.

Table 17: Number and percentage of infringement notices issued in 2003/2004 by local authority type

Local authority type	Number and percentage of infringement notices issued	
	No.	% of total
Regional councils	503	43
Territorial authorities	561	48
Unitary authorities	93	8

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2003/2004.

Infringement notices

Infringement notices came into force on 1 February 2000 under the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Regulations 1999. Eighty local authorities issued 1,157 infringement notices in the 2003/2004 annual period compared to 620 ($n=85$) in 2001/2002. Table 17 describes the number of infringement notices issued by different local authority types.

REFER TABLE 17

Of the 1,157 infringement notices issued in 2003/2004, 194 were not proceeded with while 21 were defended (appealed) in the Environment Court. The remainder were either paid immediately or are still in progress.

Māori participation in RMA processes

The section reports on:

- Funding for Māori/iwi participation in RMA processes
- Māori input into consents and plans
- Statutory acknowledgements
- Consultation with iwi in resource consents applications.

Funding for Māori participation in RMA processes

Fifty-six percent (47) of local authorities reported that they had made a budgetary commitment to Māori/iwi participation in RMA processes in 2003/2004 compared to 49% in 2001/2002, 65% in 1999/2000 and 58% in 1997/1998.

Māori input into contents and plans

Sixty five percent of local authorities have criteria or provide guidance for their staff to determine when iwi or hapu are likely to be affected parties in a resource consent application and should be notified of the proposal. This is a slight increase from the 59% in 2001/2002 and 61% recorded in 1999/2000.

Iwi management plans can be used for input into consents and plans. The Resource Management Amendment Act 2003 altered the status of these documents. When preparing plans or policy statements local authorities are now required to take into account iwi management plans. Guidance on iwi management plans is provided in the Ministry for the Environment publication *Whakamaui ki Nga Kaupapa: Making the best of Iwi Management Plans under the Resource Management Act 1991*, published in 2001 and updated in 2003.

Of those councils that have criteria or provide guidance for their staff to determine when iwi or hapu are likely to be affected parties in a resource consent application 42% (23) made written criteria/set policy available to the public for consent applications.

A new question was asked for the 2003/2004 survey – for how many resource consents processed in 2003/2004 was formal consultation with iwi undertaken? Overall 10,709 (20%) of all resource consents had formal consultation with iwi.

Statutory acknowledgements

Statutory acknowledgements were introduced in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and represent an innovative approach to improving existing RMA processes by incorporating Ngai Tahu interests into resource management decision-making.

There are 25 local authorities whose boundaries fall within the Ngai Tahu rohe. Twelve of these local authorities received resource consent applications in 2003/2004 that affected statutory acknowledgements, compared to eight in 2001/2002 and 17 in 1999/2000.

789 resource consent applications were received in 2003/2004 affecting statutory acknowledgements. Ninety-five percent were received by regional councils – Northland Regional Council receiving 220 of them, Otago Regional Council 185, Environment Southland 178, and Environment Canterbury 146. 589 and 391 resource consent applications were received in 2001/2002 and 1999/2000 respectively affecting statutory acknowledgements.

Appendix 1:

Number of resource consents processed by local authority group

Local authority group	Local authority	1997/1998	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004
Territorial authorities group 1	Buller District Council	56	57	86	88
	Carterton District Council	52	82	49	66
	Clutha District Council	85	72	75	108
	Gore District Council	100	98	83	79
	Grey District Council	90	86	61	105
	Kaikoura District Council	73	58	104	103
	Kawerau District Council	7	11	8	11
	Opotiki District Council	59	58	40	49
	Otorohanga District Council	71	69	54	87
	Rangitikei District Council	74	91	96	66
	South Waikato District Council	93	78	97	90
	Stratford District Council	63	32	36	52
	Tararua District Council	57	55	59	64
	Waimate District Council	52	48	47	56
	Wairoa District Council	41	41	38	44
	Waitomo District Council	52	55	51	66
Territorial authorities group 2	Ashburton District Council	170	141	177	216
	Banks Peninsula District Council	187	160	137	206
	Central Hawkes Bay District Council	103	93	124	150
	Hauraki District Council	158	173	126	134
	Horowhenua District Council	253	222	186	239
	Hurunui District Council	200	200	143	256
	Invercargill City Council	297	306	232	244
	Kaipara District Council	207	174	190	251
	MacKenzie District Council	N/A	74	43	113
	Manawatu District Council	204	187	147	270
	Masterton District Council	142	120	140	196
	Matamata-Piako District Council	216	193	214	184
	Papakura District Council	523	402	249	290
	Ruapehu District Council	100	92	69	121
	South Taranaki District Council	185	131	164	195
	South Wairarapa District Council	127	192	170	191
	Southland District Council	187	176	246	253
	Timaru District Council	364	293	286	276
	Upper Hutt City Council	139	246	200	241
	Waitaki District Council	160	91	116	169
Wanganui District Council	290	242	215	195	
Westland District Council	85	58	93	148	

Territorial authorities group 3	Central Otago District Council	134	161	206	424
	Franklin District Council	475	422	314	536
	Hastings District Council	483	514	466	569
	Hutt City Council	856	738	622	641
	Kapiti Coast District Council	413	385	298	323
	Napier City Council	326	375	310	354
	New Plymouth District Council	382	402	414	600
	Palmerston North City Council	511	506	447	641
	Porirua City Council	285	318	358	305
	Rotorua District Council	812	675	536	530
	Selwyn District Council	491	515	529	591
	Tauranga City Council	1,061	696	526	607
	Thames-Coromandel District Council	528	472	565	602
	Waikato District Council	522	448	472	577
	Waipa District Council	566	453	484	645
	Whakatane District Council	290	294	229	313
Whangarei District Council	1,090	820	747	570	
Territorial authorities group 4	Auckland City Council	9,324	6,183	5,649	7,215
	Christchurch City Council	4,165	2,604	2,489	2,721
	Dunedin City Council	942	832	780	1,073
	Far North District Council	1,003	795	763	827
	Hamilton City Council	1,806	963	588	782
	Manukau City Council	2,620	2,013	1,808	1,901
	North Shore City Council	2,980	2,374	2,385	2,563
	Queenstown-Lakes District Council	613	745	964	1,029
	Rodney District Council	1,427	1,319	1,403	1,603
	Taupo District Council	502	457	511	659
	Waimakariri District Council	385	604	402	790
	Waitakere City Council	2,473	2,092	1,506	1,815
	Wellington City Council	1,451	1,550	1,323	1,423
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	737	421	414	655	

Regional councils	Auckland Regional Council	961	721	1,042	997
	Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council	495	393	732	1,022
	Environment Canterbury	2,032	1,801	2,390	2,420
	Environment Southland	511	414	731	621
	Waikato Regional Council	1,377	1,036	1,192	1,091
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	541	540	811	629
	Horizons Regional Council	369	490	450	284
	Northland Regional Council	732	632	931	1,076
	Otago Regional Council	898	620	675	784
	Taranaki Regional Council	322	261	478	568
	Wellington Regional Council	829	665	691	748
	West Coast Regional Council	443	607	1,520	554
Unitary authorities	Chatham Islands District Council	12	9	2	5
	Gisborne District Council	658	610	576	676
	Marlborough District Council	1,525	1,327	2,037	1,955
	Nelson City Council	513	467	408	507
	Tasman District Council	867	816	1,187	1,165
Total consents processed		58,060	48,045	49,012	54,658

Appendix 2:

Percentage of resource consents publicly notified by individual local authorities

Local authority group	Local authority	Percentage notified			
		1997/1998	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004
Territorial authorities group 1	Buller District Council	14.30%	3.50%	3.50%	5.68%
	Carterton District Council	34.60%	0.00%	18.40%	1.52%
	Clutha District Council	3.50%	5.60%	1.30%	2.78%
	Gore District Council	3.00%	2.00%	0.00%	5.06%
	Grey District Council	6.70%	4.70%	4.90%	2.86%
	Kaikoura District Council	2.70%	0.00%	5.80%	6.80%
	Kawerau District Council	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Opotiki District Council	6.80%	0.00%	0.00%	4.08%
	Otorohanga District Council	1.40%	0.00%	1.90%	2.30%
	Rangitikei District Council	5.40%	0.00%	4.20%	1.52%
	South Waikato District Council	2.20%	2.60%	0.00%	1.11%
	Stratford District Council	4.80%	9.40%	0.00%	0.00%
	Tararua District Council	7.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.56%
	Waimate District Council	3.80%	0.00%	4.30%	0.00%
	Wairoa District Council	2.40%	4.90%	0.00%	11.36%
	Waitomo District Council	3.80%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Territorial authorities group 2	Ashburton District Council	3.50%	5.70%	1.70%	2.31%
	Banks Peninsula District Council	4.80%	3.80%	3.60%	4.85%
	Central Hawkes Bay District Council	0.00%	0.00%	0.80%	0.00%
	Hauraki District Council	1.90%	1.70%	0.00%	2.24%
	Horowhenua District Council	1.20%	1.80%	2.70%	0.00%
	Hurunui District Council	3.00%	4.50%	5.60%	1.95%
	Invercargill City Council	3.40%	0.70%	0.90%	1.64%
	Kaipara District Council	4.80%	8.00%	6.30%	3.59%
	MacKenzie District Council	N/A	0.00%	4.70%	0.88%
	Manawatu District Council	1.50%	1.10%	2.00%	0.37%
	Masterton District Council	10.60%	2.50%	2.90%	3.06%
	Matamata-Piako District Council	13.90%	10.90%	3.70%	0.54%
	Papakura District Council	0.20%	0.50%	2.80%	1.38%
	Ruapehu District Council	1.00%	5.40%	1.40%	2.48%
	South Taranaki District Council	5.40%	5.30%	4.30%	0.51%
	South Wairarapa District Council	11.80%	15.10%	5.30%	8.38%
	Southland District Council	3.20%	1.10%	4.10%	2.37%
	Timaru District Council	4.40%	3.80%	3.10%	1.81%
	Upper Hutt City Council	0.00%	7.70%	0.50%	1.24%
	Waitaki District Council	4.40%	6.60%	8.60%	1.78%
Wanganui District Council	2.10%	2.50%	1.40%	1.54%	
Westland District Council	4.70%	3.40%	2.20%	1.35%	

Territorial authorities group 3	Central Otago District Council	21.60%	11.20%	3.90%	10.61%
	Franklin District Council	3.80%	4.30%	5.10%	2.80%
	Hastings District Council	1.00%	1.60%	1.30%	2.28%
	Hutt City Council	3.40%	2.60%	3.70%	4.84%
	Kapiti Coast District Council	4.10%	3.40%	2.70%	0.62%
	Napier City Council	1.50%	1.10%	5.20%	2.54%
	New Plymouth District Council	1.80%	2.70%	2.20%	0.83%
	Palmerston North City Council	0.20%	1.00%	2.00%	0.47%
	Porirua City Council	4.20%	3.10%	2.00%	2.30%
	Rotorua District Council	1.00%	2.80%	2.60%	1.70%
	Selwyn District Council	10.40%	20.00%	9.50%	19.63%
	Tauranga City Council	1.00%	1.30%	1.10%	1.98%
	Thames-Coromandel District Council	3.60%	6.80%	3.00%	2.66%
	Waikato District Council	1.70%	2.90%	1.90%	3.12%
	Waipa District Council	2.80%	3.80%	1.70%	1.24%
	Whakatane District Council	6.20%	3.40%	3.90%	2.88%
Whangarei District Council	3.90%	6.10%	11.60%	9.30%	
Territorial authorities group 4	Auckland City Council	1.00%	0.80%	1.00%	0.93%
	Christchurch City Council	3.60%	2.40%	1.70%	1.65%
	Dunedin City Council	2.90%	6.70%	4.00%	3.26%
	Far North District Council	19.60%	7.50%	7.70%	2.18%
	Hamilton City Council	2.60%	3.20%	2.90%	1.28%
	Manukau City Council	0.80%	1.50%	1.30%	0.89%
	North Shore City Council	1.20%	1.60%	1.00%	1.68%
	Queenstown-Lakes District Council	7.70%	8.60%	8.80%	5.73%
	Rodney District Council	5.70%	6.60%	5.90%	5.36%
	Taupo District Council	0.60%	2.60%	3.70%	5.01%
	Waimakariri District Council	25.20%	14.40%	15.20%	2.41%
	Waitakere City Council	1.10%	0.80%	0.60%	0.28%
	Wellington City Council	2.60%	2.60%	2.60%	1.76%
	Western Bay of Plenty District Council	1.80%	2.90%	2.90%	1.53%

Regional councils	Auckland Regional Council	17.70%	10.10%	17.20%	7.12%
	Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council	11.10%	9.90%	11.10%	10.96%
	Environment Canterbury	9.40%	6.20%	5.30%	4.79%
	Environment Southland	15.30%	9.40%	14.80%	12.72%
	Waikato Regional Council	15.30%	16.50%	11.40%	7.79%
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	17.60%	7.60%	2.30%	1.59%
	Horizons Regional Council	26.80%	23.50%	33.10%	33.10%
	Northland Regional Council	16.70%	7.60%	8.90%	13.85%
	Otago Regional Council	14.30%	6.00%	14.20%	13.52%
	Taranaki Regional Council	10.90%	10.00%	5.20%	1.06%
	Wellington Regional Council	14.10%	6.00%	12.90%	9.09%
West Coast Regional Council	7.20%	23.00%	6.80%	15.88%	
Unitary authorities	Chatham Islands District Council	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
	Gisborne District Council	9.90%	14.30%	13.00%	12.57%
	Marlborough District Council	8.50%	10.40%	26.10%	23.94%
	Nelson City Council	5.30%	3.00%	1.70%	2.37%
	Tasman District Council	15.20%	7.20%	9.40%	9.44%

Appendix 3:

Percentage of resource consents processed within time by individual local authorities

Local authority group	Local authority	Notified					Limited					Non-notified				
		Subdivision	Land use	Coastal	Water	Discharge	Subdivision	Land use	Coastal	Water	Discharge	Subdivision	Land use	Coastal	Water	Discharge
Territorial authorities group 1	Buller District Council		40%				0%	50%				55%	71%			
	Carterton District Council	100%					100%					88%	86%			
	Clutha District Council		0%									79%	90%			
	Gore District Council	0%	67%				100%					60%	93%			
	Grey District Council		67%				33%					28%	69%			
	Kaikoura District Council	100%	100%				100%	100%				33%	49%			
	Kawerau District Council												100%			
	Opotiki District Council	100%	100%				100%					47%	76%			
	Otorohanga District Council		100%									100%	100%			
	Rangitikei District Council		100%									87%	96%			
	South Waikato District Council		0%				100%					66%	92%			
	Stratford District Council											100%	100%			
	Tararua District Council		100%				100%					94%	85%			
	Waimate District Council						100%	100%				100%	100%			
	Wairoa District Council	100%	100%									100%	93%			
Waitomo District Council											100%	100%				
Territorial authorities group 2	Ashburton District Council		60%				83%				80%	83%				
	Banks Peninsula District Council	100%	44%								71%	79%				
	Central Hawkes Bay District Council						100%				93%	88%				
	Hauraki District Council	100%	100%								64%	88%				
	Horowhenua District Council						67%				96%	94%				
	Hurunui District Council	100%	50%								99%	99%				
	Invercargill City Council	100%	100%				100%	86%			91%	97%				
	Kaipara District Council	29%	0%				50%				55%	63%				
	Mackenzie District Council		0%				100%				100%	98%				
	Manawatu District Council		100%				100%	100%			100%	100%				
	Masterton District Council	50%	100%								77%	95%				
	Matamata-Piako District Council		100%				100%				98%	100%				
	Papakura District Council	0%	67%				0%				23%	42%				
	Ruapehu District Council	0%	50%				100%				39%	61%				
	South Taranaki District Council		100%				100%				97%	100%				
	South Wairarapa District Council	58%	50%				75%	20%			71%	70%				
	Southland District Council	25%	0%				100%	100%			78%	80%				
	Timaru District Council	100%	50%				100%	100%			90%	99%				
	Upper Hutt City Council	67%					100%				76%	88%				
	Waitaki District Council		33%				0%	0%			78%	80%				
Wanganui District Council		67%				100%				70%	86%					
Westland District Council		100%				100%	100%			83%	78%					

Territorial authorities group 3	Central Otago District Council	77%	60%		100%	100%		80%	80%	
	Franklin District Council	13%	29%					99%	98%	
	Hastings District Council	100%	100%					94%	99%	
	Hutt City Council	86%	63%		100%	83%		84%	99%	
	Kapiti Coast District Council		100%		100%	100%		79%	88%	
	Napier City Council	0%	43%					88%	92%	
	New Plymouth District Council	100%	50%			67%		86%	97%	
	Palmerston North City Council		33%		0%	100%		69%	90%	
	Porirua City Council	100%	100%		100%	100%		100%	100%	
	Rotorua District Council	0%	71%					47%	85%	
	Selwyn District Council	38%	43%		40%	67%		64%	79%	
	Tauranga City Council	0%	44%		0%	0%		51%	51%	
	Thames-Coromandel District Council	14%	22%		100%	63%		44%	60%	
	Waikato District Council	67%	100%		100%			83%	93%	
	Waipa District Council	0%	71%		100%	67%		76%	96%	
	Whakatane District Council	60%	100%		100%	100%		98%	99%	
Whangarei District Council	40%	62%		40%	50%		75%	76%		
Territorial authorities group 4	Auckland City Council		63%			57%		66%	52%	
	Christchurch City Council	0%	77%		0%	93%		76%	91%	
	Dunedin City Council	100%	100%		100%	71%		99%	100%	
	Far North District Council	11%	13%	0%		50%		61%	74%	60%
	Hamilton City Council	83%	50%		100%	100%		94%	100%	
	Manukau City Council	75%	69%		100%	100%		88%	84%	0%
	North Shore City Council	100%	34%		0%			65%	61%	
	Queenstown-Lakes District Council	10%	21%			0%		56%	66%	
	Rodney District Council	68%	67%	50%	25%	80%		80%	89%	70%
	Taupo District Council	27%	36%					50%	70%	
	Waimakariri District Council	80%	79%			100%		92%	97%	
	Waitakere City Council	0%	25%		0%	40%		87%	86%	
	Wellington City Council	67%	74%		75%	44%		83%	91%	
	Western Bay of Plenty District Council	0%	67%		50%	75%		79%	84%	

Regional councils	Auckland Regional Council	47%	61%	33%	38%	100%	100%	50%	94%	93%	93%	83%			
	Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council	97%	93%	85%	68%	100%	33%	89%	81%	87%	93%				
	Environment Canterbury	30%	70%	8%	17%		60%	92%	55%	24%	40%				
	Environment Southland	100%	57%	37%	33%	100%	40%	90%	95%	79%	85%				
	Waikato Regional Council	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	71%	98%	91%	93%	94%			
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	100%	100%	100%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	94%			
	Horizons Regional Council	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			
	Northland Regional Council	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	99%	98%			
	Otago Regional Council	13%	0%	49%	29%	0%	25%	0%	83%	69%	53%	72%			
	Taranaki Regional Council			100%	100%				100%	100%	100%	100%			
	Wellington Regional Council	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%	100%			
West Coast Regional Council	26%	0%	43%	34%	100%	100%	82%	71%	55%	48%	54%				
Unitary authorities	Chatham Islands District Council							100%							
	Gisborne District Council	100%	36%	55%	67%	100%	100%	68%	85%	89%	85%	69%			
	Marlborough District Council	37%	36%	44%	23%	38%	100%	86%	100%	100%	39%	60%	69%	37%	40%
	Nelson City Council	100%	56%	0%			0%		37%	50%	67%	100%	50%		
	Tasman District Council	54%	69%	50%	93%	67%	67%	0%	53%	89%	100%	77%	71%		

Note: Waikato Regional Council only processed one limited notified water consent during the survey period.

Appendix 4:

Good practice local authorities

Local authority group	Local authority	Good practice		
		Local authorities that check resource consent applications for completeness within one full working day	Local authorities that formally receive resource consent applications within one full working day	Local authorities that use section s37(1) and/or s37(5A) to extend statutory time limits
Territorial authorities group 1	Buller District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Carterton District Council	No	Yes	Yes
	Clutha District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Gore District Council	No	No	Yes
	Grey District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Kaikoura District Council	Yes	Yes	No
	Kawerau District Council	No	No	No
	Opotiki District Council	No	Yes	No
	Otorohanga District Council	Yes	Yes	No
	Rangitikei District Council	No	Yes	Yes
	South Waikato District Council	No	No	Yes
	Stratford District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Tararua District Council	Yes	No	Yes
	Waimate District Council	Yes	Yes	No
	Wairoa District Council	No	No	Yes
Waitomo District Council	Yes	Yes	No	
Territorial authorities group 2	Ashburton District Council	No	Yes	Yes
	Banks Peninsula District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Central Hawkes Bay District Council	No	Yes	No
	Hauraki District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Horowhenua District Council	No	Yes	Yes
	Hurunui District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Invercargill City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Kaipara District Council	No	Yes	Yes
	MacKenzie District Council	No	No	Yes
	Manawatu District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Masterton District Council	No	Yes	Yes
	Matamata-Piako District Council	Yes	Yes	No
	Papakura District Council	No	Yes	Yes
	Ruapehu District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	South Taranaki District Council	Yes	Yes	No
	South Wairarapa District Council	No	No	No
	Southland District Council	No	No	No
	Timaru District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Upper Hutt City Council	Yes	No	No
Waitaki District Council	Yes	Yes	No	
Wanganui District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Westland District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Territorial authorities group 3	Central Otago District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Franklin District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Hastings District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Hutt City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Kapiti Coast District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Napier City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	New Plymouth District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Palmerston North City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Porirua City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Rotorua District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Selwyn District Council	No	Yes	Yes
	Tauranga City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Thames-Coromandel District Council	No	No	Yes
	Waikato District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Waipa District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Territorial authorities group 4	Whakatane District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Whangarei District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Auckland City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Christchurch City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Dunedin City Council	Yes	No	Yes
	Far North District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Hamilton City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Manukau City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	North Shore City Council	Yes	Yes	No
	Queenstown-Lakes District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Rodney District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Taupo District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Waimakariri District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Waitakere City Council	No	No	Yes
	Wellington City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Regional councils	Auckland Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Environment Canterbury	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Environment Southland	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Waikato Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Hawkes Bay Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Horizons Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Northland Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Otago Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Taranaki Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Wellington Regional Council	No	No	Yes
	West Coast Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Unitary authorities	Chatham Islands District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Gisborne District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Marlborough District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Nelson City Council	Yes	No	No
	Tasman District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes

