



How long will it take?

- **Non-notified applications** – The statutory timeframe set down in the Resource Management Act is 20 working days. Non-notified applications are not open to public submission.
- **Notified applications** – The statutory period is two to three months. Notified applications are open to public submission and will involve a council hearing.
- If the application lacks all the relevant information, the council will ask for it and ‘stop the clock’ until it is received. So the actual time taken can be considerably longer.
- Don’t underestimate the lead time required for consultation *and* written approvals and compiling the application – a generous lead time (three to six months) is recommended.

Consent conditions

- If granted, a resource consent is likely to have conditions attached.
- Some councils are open to discussing conditions before they include them on a resource consent.
- Regional consents specify a maximum term, after which a new consent is needed.
- Check when the consent lapses and the maximum term of the consent.
- A range of conditions might apply eg, there may be monitoring conditions and costs the applicant must meet.

Failure to comply with consent conditions risks enforcement proceedings and costs.

Pig farms and their neighbours

People are often more sensitive to effects (smell, noise) if they experience them persistently, or at annoying times. Sensitivity is also heightened when they can see the source, so screening helps. Here are some tips for maintaining good relationships between pig farmers and neighbours.

- If you are a farmer, respond promptly and don’t dismiss concerns. Go over to the neighbour’s place and see things from their viewpoint. Find out why the problem occurred. There may be a simple solution.
- Accidental or temporary spills/smells should be dealt with promptly.
- It helps if farmers and neighbours behave reasonably and *talk* – ongoing communication is important.
- Farmers should stay well informed about proposed land-use changes or subdivisions near their farms – be aware of potential conflicts that may arise.

In general, it is helpful if solutions to problems are developed by farmers working *with* their neighbour(s).

Published in June 2002 by the
Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao
PO Box 10-362, Wellington, New Zealand

With assistance from the
New Zealand Pork Industry Board
www.pork.co.nz

ME number: 449

This document is available on the
Ministry for the Environment’s website:
www.mfe.govt.nz

Other publications in this series include:
Poultry Production and the Resource Management Act
Quarrying and the Resource Management Act

Pigs

AND THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

This brochure outlines some things pig farmers should consider when establishing or expanding pork production units or renewing resource consents. It may also be useful for neighbours, council consent staff and others in the community.



This guide highlights the standard requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 in relation to pork production. Check specific requirements with both your regional and district councils.



Farm management and environmental effects

Farmers should use all *reasonable* measures to keep the environmental effects of their activities within their site.

Effective management combines:

- buffer distances from neighbouring activities
- the sensible location and design of buildings
- appropriate feed mixes
- odour control and waste minimisation technology
- appropriate effluent disposal systems
- regular cleaning.

Do I need a resource consent?

Pork production operations involve substantial capital investment. Make sure all new and expanded activities are authorised first. You are likely to need resource consents from either or both regional and district councils. Different councils are responsible for different aspects of pork production.

Some activities may be classed as ‘permitted’, meaning that no resource consent is required as long as certain conditions are met. Other classes of activity influence whether the council has the ability to decline your application and whether the wider community will be made aware of your proposal.

Regional councils

Contact regional councils about:

- discharging effluent into ponds or applying it to land
- taking water from rivers, streams or bores
- discharging odour or aerosols to air.

District or city councils

Contact district or city councils about:

- intensive pig farming activities, including piggery buildings, effluent ponds, effluent spreading and ofal holes
- feed milling
- frequent vehicle movements.

How do I get a resource consent?

Where to start

- Talk to council staff *early* when planning new or expanded operations.
- Explain the basic details – don’t assume council staff know how the operation works.
- Find out exactly what consents are required.
- Be prepared to review and adjust your proposal.

Consult with neighbours early

- Consult with people likely to be affected by your proposal.
- This means knocking on doors and talking about what you propose – well ahead of preparing an application.
- Council staff can advise you on who should be consulted.

What information do I need?

Check with the council(s) to see what information you will need. This will usually include scale plans, details of the proposal and an assessment of effects on the environment (AEE). You should describe the existing environment and the proposal, including:

- the site plan
- the current use of the property
- nearby land uses, including:
 - significant and protected features (areas of bush, streams and wetlands)
 - sensitive uses (dwellings, schools, marae, churches)
- local climate and wind direction
- location and flow of waterways
- location and design of the piggery building
- feed regime (type, storage, manual/automated)
- water supply and volume required
- effluent management
- access driveways and vehicle movements
- topography
- existing and/or proposed landscape planting.

Consent can only be granted for what has been requested, so make sure *all* essential activities or processes have been included. Have you considered future growth of the operation?

Potential environmental effects include odour, dust, traffic, noise and water pollution. The AEE should cover:

- whether *any* proposed activities will create effects
- how significant these effects might be
- how effects change through the production cycle
- what parts of the environment (and who) are affected
- any consultation findings
- measures you propose to mitigate (lessen) adverse effects.

Existing pig farm operations

- Have there been any problems? Why?
- Describe any existing unresolved adverse effects and show how you intend to manage them adequately – otherwise expect opposition.

Do you need expert advice?

- If you need advice, seek it *early* when preparing your application(s).
- It is best to get professional advice for technical issues.
- You can get advice from consultants, other pig farmers or the NZ Pork Industry Board.

The council application process

- The process used depends on district and regional plan rules – ask your councils.
- It may be appropriate to get written approvals of affected parties. Councils can guide you in identifying everyone whose approval is required (owners and occupiers).
- It is the applicant’s job to get written approvals.
- The council has to publicly notify an application unless *all* approvals are obtained.