



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 timeframe 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 can ‘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 (if needed) *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 the timeframe within which the consent must be implemented and the duration and maximum term of the consent.
- A range of conditions might apply eg, there may be monitoring conditions and costs that the applicant must meet.

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

Quarries 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 quarry operators and their neighbours.

- Quarry operators can nominate a staff member to handle complaints and respond promptly and constructively.
- Sub-contractors and employees should be aware of and comply with consent conditions.
- Accidental non-compliance should be addressed promptly.
- Ensure on-site environmental monitoring is effective.
- Quarry operators should stay well-informed of proposed land-use changes or subdivisions nearby – be aware of potential conflicts that may arise and raise these with the council if necessary.
- It helps if quarry operators and their neighbours maintain on-going contact to provide a forum for airing issues constructively and exploring opportunities for working together.

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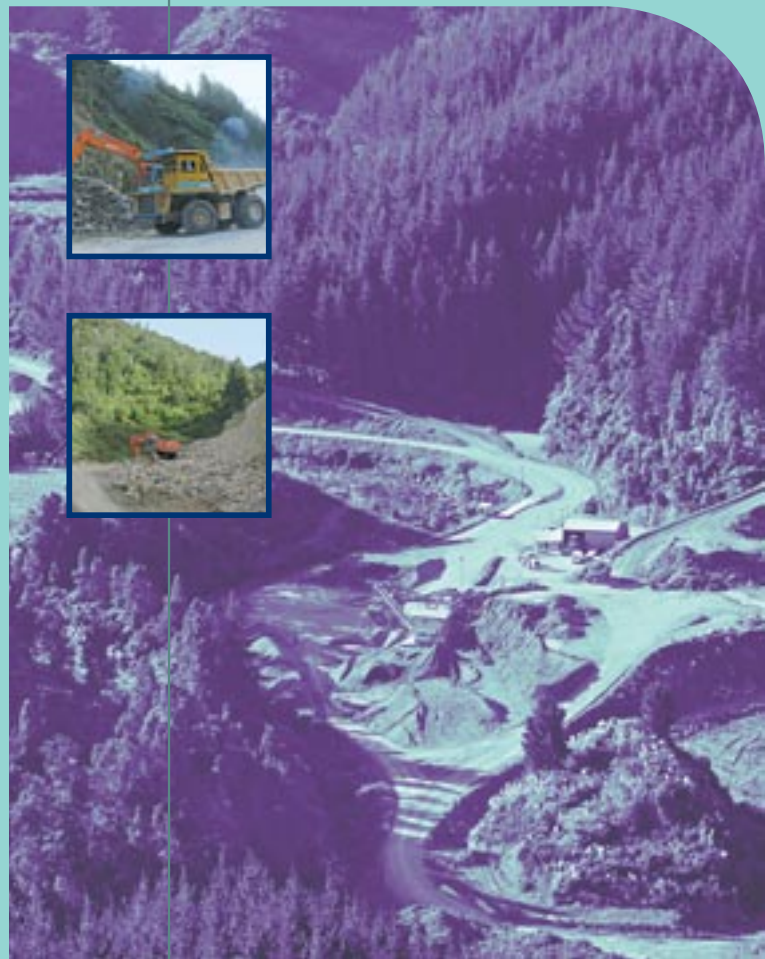
This document is available on the
Ministry for the Environment’s website:
www.mfe.govt.nz

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

Quarrying

AND THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

This brochure outlines some things quarry operators should consider when establishing a quarry or renewing quarry 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 quarrying. Check specific requirements with both your regional and district councils.



Quarry management and environmental effects

Quarry operators are expected to use all *reasonable* measures to keep the environmental effects of quarrying within the site.

Effective management combines:

- effective buffer areas
- sensible location of plant and buildings
- appropriate on-site controls (noise, sediment, dust, hazardous substances)
- landscaping to screen views (using earth bunds or trees)
- planned rehabilitation.

Do I need a resource consent?

Quarries involve substantial capital investment. Make sure all new or 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 quarrying.

Regional council consents

Contact regional councils about:

- discharge of sediment or water
- air discharges and dust
- taking water from streams or bores
- diverting streams
- depositing material.

District or city council consents

Contact district or city councils about:

- excavation and extraction
- vegetation removal
- buildings and other structures
- vehicle entranceways and movements
- hazardous substances
- noise
- advertising signs.

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, such as the extraction area, rate, method and timing.
- Find out exactly what consents are required.
- The council may have codes or guidelines.
- Be prepared to review and adjust your proposal.

Consult with neighbours early

- You should consult with people likely to be affected by the 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, stream or wetlands)
 - sensitive uses (dwellings, schools, marae, churches)
- local climate and wind direction
- location and flow of waterways
- location and extent of quarrying
- the quarry management plan
- details of blasting
- source and volume of water used
- stormwater and silt management
- stream diversions or dams
- topography, and existing/proposed planting
- building location(s)

- hazardous substances involved
- type and frequency of vehicle movements
- arrangements for vehicle access, loading, parking and wash-down facilities.

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 and perceived environmental effects include noise (blasting, machinery, vehicles), vibration, dust, sediment run-off, lights, visual/landscape impacts, traffic, noise and water pollution. The AEE should cover:

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

Existing quarries

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

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.

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.