



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

**TWO-YEARLY SURVEY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES
2005/2006**

Published in March 2007 by the
Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao
PO Box 10362
Wellington
New Zealand

ISBN: 0-478-30127-8
Publication number: ME 796

This document and a summary of the survey results,
*Resource Management Act: Key Facts About Local Authorities
& Resource Consents in 2005/2006*, is available on the
Ministry for the Environment's website:
www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/annual-survey/

Contents

Foreword	1
Executive Summary	2
Resource consent processing	2
Time	3
Charges to resource consent applicants	3
Good practice in resource consent processing	3
Monitoring, compliance and enforcement	4
Māori participation in RMA processes	4
Plan changes and variations	5
Introduction	6
Purpose of the survey	6
The 2005/2006 survey questionnaire	7
Local authority family groups	7
Data presentation	8
Local authority good practice	8
Limitations of the 2005/2006 survey	8
Next survey	8
Resource Consent Processing Statistics	9
Number of resource consent applications processed	9
Number of certificates of compliance	10
Number of changes to consent conditions	10
Proportion of resource consent applications notified	10
Proportion of resource consent applications by activity type	11
Proportion of resource consents where further information was requested	12
Pre-hearing meetings	12
Resource consent decision-makers	13
Resource consents declined	14
Resource consent decision objections and appeals	14
Time	16
Application completeness checks by local authorities	16
Formal receipt of applications by local authorities	17
Resource consent applications processed within statutory time limits	17
Notified, limited-notified, and non-notified resource consents processed within time limits	17
Use of section 37 to extend time limits	18

Charges to Resource Consent Applicants	19
Regional council and unitary authority charges to applicants	19
Territorial authority charges to applicants	20
Good Practice in Resource Consent Processing	22
Assistance at the resource consent pre-application phase	22
Information needed at the resource consent application phase	23
Assessments of environmental effects and notification	23
Monitoring processing timeframes	24
Customer satisfaction	24
Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement	26
Section 35 monitoring	26
Complaints about breaches of the Resource Management Act	27
Resolution of complaints	28
Compliance with consent conditions	28
Resolution of breaches of consent conditions	28
Infringement notices	29
Māori Participation in Resource Management Act Processes	30
Funding for Māori participation in RMA processes	30
Māori input into resource consents and plans	30
Advice to resource consent applicants on Māori interests	31
Plan Changes and Variations	32
Council and privately initiated changes to operative plans	32
Variations to proposed plans	32
Appendices	
Appendix 1: Number of Resource Consents Processed	33
Appendix 2: Percentage of Resource Consents Notified	36
Appendix 3: Percentage of Resource Consents where Further Information was Requested	39
Appendix 4: Percentage of Resource Consents Processed within Time	42
Appendix 5: Local Authorities Adopting Good Practice Procedures for Timeframes	47
Appendix 6: 2005/2006 Survey Questionnaire	50

Foreword

The Resource Management Act (RMA) is the cornerstone of good environmental management in New Zealand. Making comprehensive information about the operation of the Act available to all New Zealanders is an essential part of ongoing efforts across government to improve this country's environmental performance. It is also a hallmark of transparency and good public service.

Every two years, the Ministry for the Environment undertakes an RMA survey with the assistance of local authorities. The survey is our principal source of information about RMA processes and helps us to monitor the implementation and operation of the Act. It also allows comparisons to be made between local authorities, promoting performance benchmarking, and stimulating discussion and the sharing of good practice.

This publication reports the findings of the eighth RMA survey. The results provide a solid benchmark against which we can measure improvements over time. The report also indicates areas where implementation should be improved. I encourage local authorities to make use of it to ensure that the RMA is operating as effectively as it should.



Hugh Logan
Chief Executive
MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Executive Summary

The purpose of the *Resource Management Act Survey of Local Authorities* is to provide core information about resource consent processes carried out by local authorities under the Resource Management Act (RMA) and to provide a measure of comparative performance. The 2005/2006 survey asked all 85 local authorities a number of questions about seven aspects of resource consent processing: numbers and types of resource consents processed; time taken to process resource consents; charges to applicants for resource consent applications; good practice in resource consent processing; monitoring, compliance and enforcement; Māori participation in RMA processes; and plan changes and variations.

This executive summary provides a snapshot of the 2005/2006 survey results and compares them to the 2003/2004 survey results where possible. It is organised under the chapter headings so you can refer to the relevant chapter for the full results. The full results include breakdowns by council type and consent type where relevant, and earlier survey comparisons where possible.

Resource consent processing

- 51,768 resource consents were processed through to a decision over the 2005/2006 financial year, a 5% (2,890) decrease from the 54,658 consents processed in 2003/2004.
- 1,097 certificates of compliance were processed during the 2005/2006 financial year, a 12% (154) decrease from the 1,251 processed in 2003/2004.
- 3,438 applications for changes to resource consent conditions were processed through to a decision in 2005/2006, compared to 2,223 applications in 2003/2004.
- 4.1% (2,129) of resource consents were publicly notified in 2005/2006, a decrease from the 4.8% (2,628) notified in 2003/2004.
- 1.5% (768) of resource consents were notified to affected parties only (limited notification) in 2005/2006, an increase from the 0.7% (373) that used limited notification in 2003/2004. Limited notification was introduced part of the way through the 2003/2004 year.
- In 2005/2006, 19% of resource consents processed through to a decision were for controlled activities, 49% for discretionary activities, 25% for restricted discretionary activities and 7% for non-complying activities.
- Further information was requested for 32% (16,760) of resource consent applications processed in 2005/2006, down from 35% of applications in 2003/2004.
- 518 pre-hearing meetings were held in 2005/2006 and 28% (144) of them resolved issues so that no hearing was required – an increase from 25% of pre-hearing meetings in 2003/2004.
- Local authority officers acting under delegated authority made 87% of the decisions on resource consent applications in 2005/2006, the same percentage as for 2003/2004.

- 0.69% (357) of resource consent applications processed were declined in 2005/2006 – a slight decrease from the 0.74% (404) of applications declined in 2003/2004.
- 1.0% (543) of resource consent decisions were appealed to the Environment Court – a decrease from the 1.2% (651) that were appealed in 2003/2004.

Time

- 59% of local authorities checked resource consent applications for completeness within one full working day in 2005/2006, compared to 76% of local authorities in 2003/2004.
- 79% of local authorities formally received resource consent applications (i.e. started processing the consent) within one full working day of their arrival at the local authority office in 2005/2006, compared to 84% of local authorities in 2003/2004.
- 73% of all resource consent applications were processed within statutory time limits in 2005/2006, compared to 77% in 2003/2004.
- 56% of all publicly notified resource consent applications were processed within statutory time limits in 2005/2006, the same percentage as in 2003/2004.
- 60% of all resource consent applications that went through limited notification were processed within statutory time limits in 2005/2006, compared to 74% in 2003/2004.
- 74% of all non-notified resource consent applications were processed within statutory time limits in 2005/2006, compared to 78% in 2003/2004.
- Section 37 was used to extend statutory time limits for 17% of the total resource consent applications processed in 2005/2006, compared to 13% in 2003/2004.

Charges to resource consent applicants

- The average median charges for resource consent processing generally increased between 2003/2004 and 2005/2006. The amount of the increase varied depending on the type of consent and issuing authority.

Good practice in resource consent processing

- 89% of local authorities in 2005/2006 defined the environmental effects that must be addressed in resource consent applications for controlled and restricted discretionary activities. This compares to 90% of local authorities in 2003/2004.
- 95% of local authorities in 2005/2006 provided applicants with the opportunity to discuss or dispute the requirements to provide such further information and/or obtain it themselves before commissioning specialist reports. This compares to 91% of local authorities in 2003/2004.
- 76% of local authorities in 2005/2006 followed a structured process to check that environmental effects are adequately identified and addressed in assessments of environmental effects. This compares to 69% of local authorities in 2003/2004.

- 61% of local authorities in 2005/2006 had internal guidance notes or checklists available to help staff determine when to notify an application. This compares to 65% of local authorities in 2003/2004.
- 59% of local authorities in 2005/2006 had internal guidance notes or checklists available to staff on how to identify potentially affected parties. This compares to 57% of local authorities in 2003/2004.
- In 2005/2006, all 85 local authorities monitored whether consents are processed within statutory time limits and 79% of them undertook formal monitoring and reporting of consent processing performance, the results of which were made available to ratepayers.
- 29% of local authorities undertook surveys of customer satisfaction with resource consent processes in 2005/2006. Of the councils who undertook surveys, 92% reported that the majority of customers were satisfied or very satisfied.

Monitoring, compliance and enforcement

- 57% of local authorities in 2005/2006 monitored the state of the environment and 36% reported on it.
- 56% of local authorities in 2005/2006 monitored the suitability and effectiveness of policies and plans and 32% reported on it.
- 47% of local authorities in 2005/2006 monitored functions they had delegated or transferred to other agencies and 33% reported on them.
- 93% of local authorities in 2005/2006 monitored compliance with resource consent conditions and 55% reported on it.
- 74% of resource consents monitored in 2005/2006 fully complied with their resource consent conditions, the same percentage as for 2003/2004.
- 84% of local authorities in 2005/2006 monitored complaints and 55% reported on them.
- 109,964 complaints were recorded in 2005/2006, compared to 117,655 complaints in 2003/2004.
- 56% of complaints in 2005/2006 were resolved through informal means rather than regulatory action.
- 63% of breaches of consent conditions in 2005/2006 were resolved using informal means.
- 1,507 infringement notices were issued in 2005/2006, up from 1,157 in 2003/2004.

Māori participation in RMA processes

- 38% of local authorities in 2005/2006 made a budgetary commitment to Māori/iwi participation in resource management processes. This compares to 56% in 2003/2004.
- 59% of local authorities in 2005/2006 had written criteria or a set policy to guide staff in determining when tangata whenua should be considered an affected party to resource consent applications and be notified of the proposal. This compares to 65% of local authorities in 2003/2004.

- 89% of local authorities in 2005/2006 had standard resource consent conditions which cover the discovery of significant sites or items to tangata whenua.
- 21% of local authorities in 2005/2006 involved tangata whenua in resource consent monitoring.
- 61% of local authorities in 2005/2006 had formal memorandum of understandings, protocols, joint management agreements or service level agreements with tangata whenua and 54% had informal arrangements.
- 96% of local authorities in 2005/2006 provided advice or an indication to resource consent applicants that their proposals may be of interest/concern to iwi/hapu.
- 32% of local authorities in 2005/2006 had a policy requiring a cultural impact assessment as part of the resource consent application when a site, species or resource is of concern to tangata whenua.

Plan changes and variations

- 127 council initiated plan changes and 20 privately initiated plan changes were completed in 2005/2006. Eleven were declined or withdrawn.
- 37 variations to proposed plans were completed in 2005/2006. Two variations were declined or withdrawn.

Introduction

This is the eighth *Resource Management Act Survey of Local Authorities*. The survey was run annually until 1999/2000 and is now run every two years. This report covers activity in the financial year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, referred to in the report as the year 2005/2006.

All 85 local authorities responded to the questionnaire, a 100 percent response rate. This is one less authority than for the last survey because Banks Peninsula District Council was amalgamated with Christchurch City Council in March 2006. Information for Banks Peninsula District Council is not included in this report, but their consent applications have been included in Christchurch City Council's information.

Purpose of the survey

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 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 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 similar local authorities
- promote benchmarking and performance improvement.

The 2005/2006 survey questionnaire

A copy of the 2005/2006 survey questionnaire is provided in Appendix 6. There were some changes in 2005/2006, including expansion of the *Māori participation in RMA processes* section and a new section on *Plan changes and variations*. In all, 14 new questions were asked.

Local authorities are required to record details on resource consent applications under section 35 of the RMA (see box below). The core questions on resource consent processing statistics, time and cost were similar to previous surveys. Local authorities should be familiar with these questions and have systems in place to capture most of the required information.

As with the previous survey, the 2005/2006 survey questionnaire was made available for completion online. Eighty-three local authorities submitted their response using the online questionnaire and two local authorities submitted their response using the paper-based format.

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 applied for, notified and granted [section 35(5)(g)–(h)] and the exercise of those consents [section 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.

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. The local authority family groups are:

- regional councils
- unitary authorities, including the Chatham Islands 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: 651–7000 consents.

Appendix 1 presents the family group each local authority has been placed in for 2005/2006, 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 data please note that the number of local authorities dropped from 86 to 85 during the 2005/2006 survey period.

Changes in the survey questionnaire do not allow all results to be presented over multiple years. In these instances the most recent available data has been presented. Full reports on each survey year are available on the Ministry for the Environment website: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/annual-survey/>.

Local authority good practice

Local authority good practice guidance is included throughout the report and is highlighted in boxes.

Limitations of the 2005/2006 survey

Some local authorities had difficulties answering questions when the information required was not recorded or held in a format that could be readily extracted. This means that a full picture of local authorities cannot be presented for all questions. There was also variation in the interpretation of some questions and some figures were estimated.

Next survey

The next *Resource Management Act Survey of Local Authorities* will cover the 2007/2008 financial year. The survey questionnaire will be released to local authorities before 30 June 2007 and responses will be collected after 30 June 2008.

Resource Consent Processing Statistics

This section provides information on the processing of resource consent applications under the Resource Management Act (RMA). Specifically, it reports on:

- number of resource consent applications processed
- number of certificates of compliance
- number of changes to consent conditions
- proportion of resource consent applications notified
- proportion of resource consent applications by activity type
- proportion of resource consents where further information was requested
- pre-hearing meetings
- resource consent decision-makers
- resource consents declined
- resource consent decision objections and appeals.

Eighty-four authorities were able to provide information relating to the total number of consents. Timaru District Council was unable to provide information and has traditionally been in group two, processing between 111 and 300 consents.

Number of resource consent applications processed

Local authorities were asked for the number of resource consents (defined in section 87 of the RMA) processed through to a decision and asked to break them down by consent type.

In 2005/2006, 51,768 consents were processed through to a decision. This compares to 54,658 consents in 2003/2004 and 49,012 consents in 2001/2002. Territorial authorities processed 68.68% of applications lodged, with 23.63% processed by regional councils and 7.69% by unitary authorities.

Table 1 shows a time-series of the change in consent numbers processed by each local authority type and Appendix 1 reports on the number of consents processed by each local authority.

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

Local authority type	1999/2000 (n=86)	2001/2002 (n=86)	2003/2004 (n=86)	2005/2006 (n=84)
Regional	8,037	11,643	10,794	12,235
Territorial	36,000	33,159	39,556	35,554
Unitary	4,008	4,210	4,308	3,979
All	48,045	49,012	54,658	51,768

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006 and 2003/2004, question 1.1; and 2001/2002 and 1999/2000, question 1.3.

As with previous surveys, the majority of resource consents processed were land-use consents, though the proportion (59%) was slightly lower for this survey when compared with surveys in previous years.

Table 2: Percentage of resource consents processed by consent type

Survey period	Subdivision	Land-use	Coastal	Water	Discharge
1999/2000 (n=86)	26%	61%	3%	4%	5%
2001/2002 (n=86)	20%	62%	5%	6%	6%
2003/2004 (n=86)	24%	63%	3%	5%	6%
2005/2006 (n=84)	24%	59%	3%	5%	8%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, question 1.6; 2003/2004, question 1.5; 2001/2002, question 1.7; and 1999/2000, question 1.8.

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

Number of certificates of compliance

Local authorities were asked for the number of certificates of compliance (under section 139 of the RMA) processed through to a decision. In 2005/2006, 1,097 certificates of compliance were processed through to a decision. This compares to 1,251 processed in 2003/2004 and 1,069 in 2001/2002.

Number of changes to consent conditions

Local authorities were asked for the number of applications for changes to resource consent conditions (defined in sections 127 and 128 of the RMA) processed through to a decision. In 2005/2006 sections 127 and 128 were asked about separately for the first time. Some councils do not yet have the facility to distinguish between applications made under these two sections so the combined results are reported here. This also allows comparison with previous years.

In 2005/2006, 3,438 applications were processed through to a decision. This compares to 2,223 applications in 2002/2003 and 1,690 in 2001/2002.

Proportion of resource consent applications notified

Local authorities were asked for the number of resource consent applications processed through to a decision for each consent type that were notified, limited notified or non-notified. This is the first time we have a full year's information on limited notification as it came in part way through the last survey period.

In 2005/2006, 4.1% (2,129) of consents were notified and 1.5% (768) of consents had limited notification – a total of 5.6% (2897) of consents that had some sort of notification. This compares to 4.8% publicly notified and 0.7% with limited notification in 2003/2004 (5.5% total) and 6% publicly notified in 2001/2002.

Table 3: Percentage of consents notified or limited notified by consent type

Survey period		1999/2000 (n=86)	2001/2002 (n=86)	2003/2004 (n=86)	2005/2006 (n=84)
Subdivision	Notified	4%	5%	3%	3%
	Limited	–	–	1%	1%
Land-use	Notified	3%	3%	3%	2%
	Limited	–	–	1%	1%
Coastal	Notified	17%	21%	14%	15%
	Limited	–	–	<0.5%	3%
Water	Notified	15%	15%	26%	20%
	Limited	–	–	1%	2%
Discharge	Notified	17%	18%	11%	7%
	Limited	–	–	1%	2%
Total	Notified	5%	6%	5%	4%
	Limited	–	–	1%	1%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, question 1.6; 2003/2004, question 1.5; 2001/2002, question 1.7; and 1999/2000, question 1.8.

Table 4: Percentage of consents notified or limited notified by local authority type

Local authority type	1999/2000 (n=86)		2001/2002 (n=86)		2003/2004 (n=86)		2005/2006 (n=84)	
	Notified	Limited	Notified	Limited	Notified	Limited	Notified	Limited
Regional	11%	–	10%	–	9%	1%	6%	1%
Territorial	3%	–	3%	–	2%	1%	2%	1%
Unitary	9%	–	17%	–	16%	1%	15%	3%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, question 1.6; 2003/2004, question 1.5; 2001/2002, question 1.7; and 1999/2000, question 1.8.

Appendix 2 provides the percentage of notified and limited notified consents processed by individual local authorities.

Proportion of resource consent applications by activity type

Local authorities were asked for the numbers of consents processed through to a decision for each activity type. Applications involving 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 each consent type was treated as an individual consent.

For the 2005/2006 survey, this question was modified to split out discretionary and restricted discretionary activities. Results show that for territorial authorities, the proportions of restricted discretionary and discretionary consents are similar, but for regional councils and unitary authorities a much higher proportion of consents are discretionary than restricted discretionary, reflecting the lower usage of the restricted discretionary activity class in regional plans.

Table 5: Percentage of resource consents by activity type for each local authority type

Local authority type	Controlled		Discretionary		Restricted discretionary		Non-complying	
	2003/2004 (n=81)	2005/2006 (n=84)	2003/2004 (n=81)	2005/2006 (n=84)	2003/2004 (n=81)	2005/2006 (n=84)	2003/2004 (n=81)	2005/2006 (n=84)
Regional	27%	18%	72%	74%	Included in discretionary	7%	1%	1%
Territorial	23%	20%	65%	39%		32%	12%	9%
Unitary	24%	16%	63%	67%		10%	13%	7%
All	24%	19%	66%	49%		25%	11%	7%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, question 1.7; and 2003/2004, question 1.6.

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

Proportion of resource consents where further information was requested

Local authorities were asked for the number of resource consent applications processed where they had needed to request further information under section 92 of the RMA. For the 2005/2006 survey, sections 92(1) and 92(2) were asked about separately for the first time. Some councils do not yet have the facility to distinguish between applications made under these two sections so the combined results are reported here. This also allows comparison with previous years.

In 2005/2006, further information was requested for 32% (16,760) of resource consents processed. This compares with 35% of consents in both 2003/2004 and 2001/2002.

Appendix 3 provides the percentage of further information requests for individual local authorities.

Pre-hearing meetings

Local authorities were asked for the number of pre-hearing meetings held and the number which resulted in issues being resolved so that no hearing was required.

In 2005/2006, 518 pre-hearing meetings were held. This compares to 647 pre-hearing meetings in 2003/2004 and 546 in 2001/2002. These figures do not include informal meetings which are frequently used by local authorities to assist the resource consent process.

In 2005/2006, 28% (144) of pre-hearing meetings resolved issues so that no hearing was required. This compares to 25% of pre-hearing meetings in 2003/2004 and 23% in 2001/2002.

Table 6: Pre-hearing meetings held on resource consent applications by local authority type in 2005/2006

Local authority type	Number of pre-hearing meetings held	Percentage which resolved issues so that no hearing was needed
Regional	234	33%
Territorial	108	44%
Unitary	176	11%
All	518	28%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 1.10–1.11.

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 made about the application.

The Resource Management Amendment Act 2005 made changes to provide for mediation. Mediation is another way to approach resolution of an issue associated with an application for a resource consent. The 2005/2006 survey questionnaire had already been finalised when the Amendment Act came into effect and does not directly address this change.

Resource consent decision-makers

Local authorities were asked for the number of resource consent decisions made by different types of decision makers.

In 2005/2006, 87% of decisions on resource consent applications were made by local authority officers acting under delegated authority, the same percentage as for 2003/2004. Both regional councils and territorial authorities had a far greater proportion of decisions made by local authority officers (93% and 89% respectively), but unitary authorities had a more even split between local authority officers (50%) and councillors acting as commissioners (45%).

Table 7: Percentage of resource consent decisions made by decision-maker and local authority type

Local authority type		Regional	Territorial	Unitary	All
Local authority officers	99/00 (<i>n</i> =86)	90%	84%	54%	83%
	01/02 (<i>n</i> =86)	91%	85%	53%	84%
	03/04 (<i>n</i> =85)	90%	90%	54%	87%
	05/06 (<i>n</i> =84)	93%	89%	50%	87%
Independent commissioners	99/00 (<i>n</i> =86)	1%	1%	1%	1%
	01/02 (<i>n</i> =86)	2%	1%	1%	1%
	03/04 (<i>n</i> =85)	1%	1%	1%	1%
	05/06 (<i>n</i> =84)	1%	4%	1%	3%
Councillors acting as commissioners	99/00 (<i>n</i> =86)	1%	8%	39%	10%
	01/02 (<i>n</i> =86)	1%	8%	29%	8%
	03/04 (<i>n</i> =85)	1%	5%	41%	7%
	05/06 (<i>n</i> =84)	<0.5%	3%	45%	5%
Councillors as part of a hearings panel	99/00 (<i>n</i> =86)	6%	6%	6%	6%
	01/02 (<i>n</i> =86)	4%	5%	5%	5%
	03/04 (<i>n</i> =85)	6%	4%	4%	4%
	05/06 (<i>n</i> =84)	4%	3%	5%	3%
Other (e.g. mixed panel of councillors/commissioners)	99/00 (<i>n</i> =86)	2%	1%	1%	1%
	01/02 (<i>n</i> =86)	2%	<0.5%	12%	2%
	03/04 (<i>n</i> =85)	2%	<0.5%	0%	<1%
	05/06 (<i>n</i> =84)	2%	1%	0%	1%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006 and 2001/2002, question 1.12; 2003/2004, question 1.10; and 1999/2000, question 1.13.

Resource consents declined

Local authorities were asked for the number of resource consent applications that were declined.

In 2005/2006, 0.69% (357) of resource consent applications processed were declined. This compares to 0.74% of applications in 2003/2004 and 0.56% in 2001/2002.

Resource consent decision objections and appeals

Decisions made on resource consent applications can be objected to the council or appealed to the Environment Court. The 2005/2006 survey was the first time we asked about objections to the council under section 357 as well as appeals to the Environment Court under sections 358 or 120.

In 2005/2006, 1.3% (696) of decisions were objected to under section 357 and 2.0% (14) of these objections were then appealed to the Environment Court under section 358.

Direct appeals to the Environment Court under section 120 were made for 1.0% (529) of decisions. Including appeals under sections 120 and 358, a total of 1.0% (543) of decisions were appealed. This compares to 1.2% decisions appealed in 2003/2004 and 1.8% in 2001/2002.

Table 8: Number and percentage of resource consent decisions appealed by local authority type

Local authority type	1999/2000 (n=79)		2001/2002 (n=86)		2003/2004 (n=85)		2005/2006 (n=84)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Regional	96	1.2%	437	3.6%	308	2.9%	190	1.6%
Territorial	329	0.9%	371	1.1%	308	0.8%	271	0.8%
Unitary	61	1.5%	85	2.0%	35	0.8%	82	2.1%
All	486	1.0%	893	1.8%	651	1.2%	543	1.0%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 1.13–1.15; 2003/2004, question 1.11; 2001/2002, question 1.13; and 1999/2000, question 1.14.

Time

This section provides information on timeframes for processing resource consent applications. Specifically, it reports on:

- application completeness checks by local authorities
- resource consent applications processed within statutory time limits
- notified, limited-notified, and non-notified resource consents processed within time limits
- 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 (RMA). 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, it is considered as processed within time.

Application completeness checks by local authorities

Local authorities were asked whether or not they checked applications for completeness within one working day of the application arriving at their office.

In 2005/2006, 59% (50) of local authorities checked for completeness within one working day. This compares to 76% of local authorities in 2003/2004 and 72% in 2001/2002. The local authorities adopting this good practice are listed in Appendix 5.

Checking for completeness involves 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 should not be processed as 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 amended section 88(3) of the RMA to state that a local authority can return deficient applications to the applicant within five working days of receiving them.

Formal receipt of applications by local authorities

Local authorities were asked whether they formally receive resource consent applications (i.e. start the time limit clock) within one full working day. The time limit clock begins as soon as the application is **received** which should be on the date the application is first lodged with the local authority (i.e. when it physically arrives at the counter).

In 2005/2006, 79% (67) of local authorities formally received applications within one working day. This compares to 84% of local authorities in 2003/2004 and 88% in 2001/2002. The local authorities adopting this good practice procedure are listed in Appendix 5.

Resource consent applications processed within statutory time limits

Local authorities were asked for the number of consents of each type processed within statutory time limits. This includes resource consents where the time limits were formally extended by local authorities under section 37 of the RMA.

In 2005/2006, 73% of all resource consents were processed within statutory time limits. This compares to 77% in 2003/2004 and 82% in 2001/2002. Table 9 presents a time-series of each consent type processed within statutory time limits. Compared to the previous survey, water and discharge consents increased in the proportion processed within time. The other categories (subdivision, land-use and coastal) all decreased in the proportion processed within time.

Table 9: Percentage of consents processed within statutory time limits by consent type

Survey period	Subdivision	Land-use	Coastal	Water	Discharge	Total
1999/2000 (n=83)	79%	87%	62%	67%	73%	82%
2001/2002 (n=86)	79%	85%	86%	63%	75%	82%
2003/2004 (n=86)	74%	78%	82%	60%	79%	77%
2005/2006 (n=84)	66%	75%	81%	74%	80%	73%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006 and 2003/2004, questions 2.1–2.3; 2001/2002, questions 2.7–2.8; and 1999/2000, questions 2.8–2.9.

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

Local authorities were asked for the number of notified, limited notification or non-notified consents that they processed within statutory time limits. This includes resource consents where the time limits were formally extended by local authorities under section 37 of the RMA.

In 2005/2006, 56% of notified resource consents were processed within statutory time limits. For limited notification consents it was 60% and for non-notified consents it was 74%. Regional councils processed 86% of resource consents within statutory time limits compared to 71% for territorial authorities and 58% for unitary authorities.

Table 10: Percentage of consents processed within statutory time limits by local authority type

Local authority type	Notified		Limited notified		Non-notified		Total	
	2003/2004 (n=86)	2005/2006 (n=84)	2003/2004 (n=86)	2005/2006 (n=84)	2003/2004 (n=86)	2005/2006 (n=84)	2003/2004 (n=86)	2005/2006 (n=84)
Regional	67%	70%	78%	70%	85%	87%	84%	86%
Territorial	56%	48%	73%	63%	77%	71%	76%	71%
Unitary	38%	49%	82%	34%	66%	60%	61%	58%
All	56%	56%	74%	60%	78%	74%	77%	73%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006 and 2003/2004, questions 2.1–2.3

Appendix 4 provides a full summary of the percentage of notified, limited notified and non-notified consents processed by individual local authorities within time.

Use of section 37 to extend time limits

Local authorities were asked whether they used section 37 to extend 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.

In 2005/2006, 82% (70) of local authorities used section 37 to extend time limits and it was used for 17% of the total consents processed. This compares to 13% of total consents processed in 2003/2004 and 6% in 2001/2002. The local authorities adopting this good practice procedure are listed in Appendix 5.

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 is restricted to those occasions when further consultation, negotiation, analysis or consideration of very complex applications is required.

Charges to Resource Consent Applicants

This section provides information on minimum, median and maximum 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.

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 charges, usually the median
- some local authorities provided standard charges rather than the actual amounts that were paid by applicants
- some local authorities only processed one or two consents of some consent types and information on charges may not be generally representative depending on the complexity of those consents
- not all local authorities could provide information on charges due to limitations with their systems
- when an application included multiple consents, some local authorities attributed the whole processing charge to the first consent rather than to the individual consents.

Regional council and unitary authority charges to applicants

Due to the small number of unitary authorities, their information has been combined with that of regional councils for analysis. It is recognised that unitary authorities have functions of both district and regional councils which will see their median, maximum and minimum charges differ. Information on subdivision consent charges is not provided as regional councils do not process subdivision consents and there was a small amount of information provided by unitary authorities.

In 2005/2006, the average median charge of regional council and unitary authority notified consents ranged from \$4,166–\$10,801. This compares to a range of \$3,198–\$8,841 in 2003/2004. In 2005/2006, the highest average maximum charge was for discharge consents (\$30,226) and in 2003/2004 it was for coastal consents (\$23,265).

For limited notification consents in 2005/2006, the average median charge ranged from \$1,525–\$8,487. This compares to a range of \$1,414–\$2,126 in 2003/2004. In 2005/2006, the highest average maximum charge was for coastal consents (\$9,477) and in 2003/2004 it was for discharge consents (\$2,553). Note that the 2003/2004 information does not include coastal consents as there was insufficient data on them to analyse and so the top of the 2003/2004 average median range and the average maximum charge are likely to be low.

For non-notified consents in 2005/2006, the average median charge ranged from \$425–\$632. This compares to a range of \$350–\$598 in 2003/2004. In 2005/2006, the highest average maximum charge was for discharge consents (\$8,073) and in 2003/2004 it was for also for discharge consents (\$6,119).

Table 11: Regional council and unitary authority average charges to applicants for resource consent processing

Consent type		Average minimum charge	Average maximum charge	Average median charge	Number of councils
Land-use	Notified	\$1,287	\$27,155	\$4,166	12
	Limited notification	\$697	\$3,653	\$1,525	14
	Non-notified	\$134	\$3,983	\$442	14
Water	Notified	\$4,334	\$23,870	\$5,417	14
	Limited notification	\$1,788	\$7,574	\$4,363	11
	Non-notified	\$179	\$3,857	\$594	15
Coastal	Notified	\$6,818	\$23,111	\$10,801	11
	Limited notification	\$7,989	\$9,477	\$8,487	7
	Non-notified	\$232	\$2,042	\$425	15
Discharge	Notified	\$1,588	\$30,226	\$4,764	12
	Limited notification	\$1,160	\$7,211	\$3,370	14
	Non-notified	\$157	\$8,073	\$632	15

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 3.1–3.3.

Territorial authority charges to applicants

In 2005/2006, the average median charge of territorial authority notified consents ranged from \$5,641–\$6,801. This compares to a range of \$4,080–\$6,047 in 2003/2004. In 2005/2006, the highest average maximum charge was for land-use consents (\$21,862) and in 2003/2004 it was also for land-use consents (\$15,220).

For limited notification consents in 2005/2006, the average median charge ranged from \$2,598–\$3,002. This compares to a range of \$1,896–\$2,326 in 2003/2004. In 2005/2006, the highest average maximum charge was for land-use consents (\$5,827) and in 2003/2004 it was also for land-use consents (\$3,850).

For non-notified consents in 2005/2006, the average median charge ranged from \$875–\$2,757. This compares to a range of \$407–\$681 in 2003/2004. In 2005/2006, the highest average maximum charge was for subdivision consents (\$13,645) and in 2003/2004 it was also for subdivision consents (\$5,242).

One territorial authority also processed a small number of coastal consents under delegated authority from the regional council. Due to the small numbers involved there was insufficient data to analyse and this information is not included.

Table 12: Territorial authority average charges to applicants for resource consent processing

Consent type		Average minimum charge	Average maximum charge	Average median charge	Number of councils
Subdivision	Notified	\$4,216	\$13,333	\$6,801	42
	Limited notification	\$2,665	\$5,181	\$3,002	44
	Non-notified	\$303	\$13,645	\$2,757	67
Land-use	Notified	\$3,028	\$21,862	\$5,641	54
	Limited notification	\$1,183	\$5,827	\$2,598	59
	Non-notified	\$192	\$6,431	\$875	67

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 3.1–3.3.

Good Practice in Resource Consent Processing

This section reports on local authority good practice to improve performance in resource management functions. Specifically, it reports on:

- assistance at the resource consent pre-application phase
- information needed at the resource consent application phase
- 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 dedicated to promoting good practice in the processing of resource consents. The site can be accessed at www.qualityplanning.org.nz.

Assistance at the resource consent pre-application phase

Local authorities were asked whether they define the environmental effects that must be addressed in consent applications for controlled and restricted discretionary activities in checklists for applicants.

In 2005/2006, 89% (76) of local authorities did define the environmental effects that must be addressed. This compares to 90% of local authorities in 2003/2004 and 81% in 2001/2002.

Knowing exactly which effects a local authority considers need to be addressed can help applicants understand and write an assessment of environmental effects. 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.

Information needed at the resource consent application phase

Local authorities were asked whether, 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.

In 2005/2006, 95% (81) of local authorities did provide applicants with that opportunity before commissioning specialist reports. This compares to 91% local authorities in 2003/2004 and 84% in 2001/2002. This saves applicants paying for a specialist report when the information can be obtained from another source.

Changes made under the Resource Management Amendment Act 2005 mean that local authorities are now required to advise the applicant in writing of the intention to commission a report and the reasons for it. The applicant is required to agree to the report being commissioned.

Assessments of environmental effects and notification

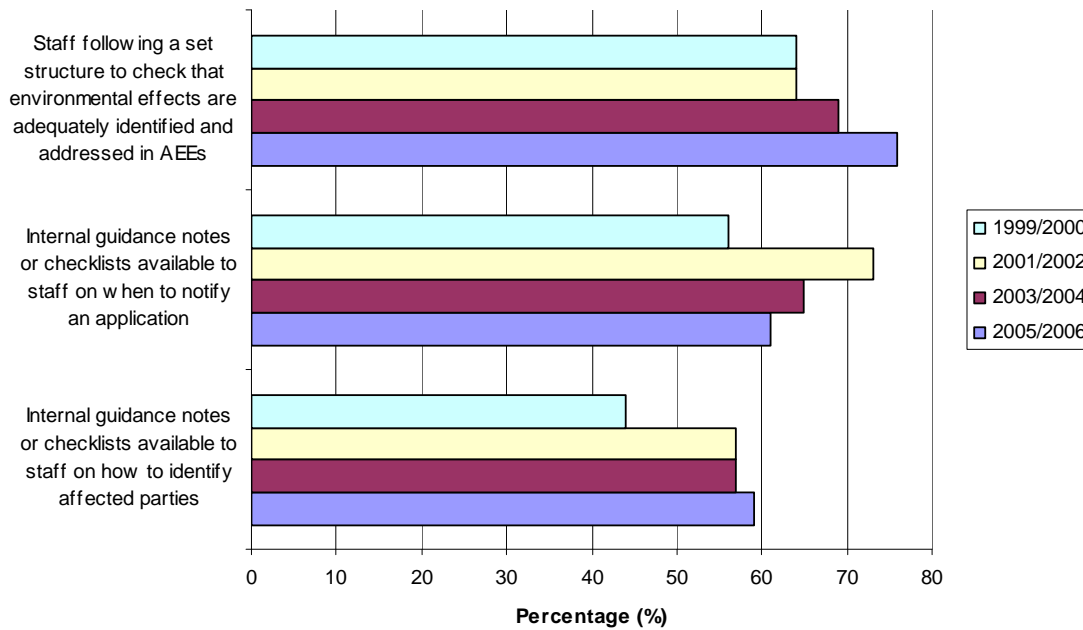
Local authorities were asked to identify mechanisms used to ensure adequate identification and assessment of environment effects in assessment of environmental effects (AEEs), proper notification and identification of affected parties.

In 2005/2006, 76% (65) of local authorities indicated that they follow a structured process to check that environmental effects are adequately identified and addressed in AEEs. This compares to 69% of local authorities in 2003/2004 and 64% in 2001/2002.

In 2005/2006, 61% (52) of local authorities indicated that internal guidance notes or checklists are available to staff on when to notify an application. This compares to 65% of local authorities in 2003/2004 and 73% in 2001/2002.

In 2005/2006, 59% (50) of local authorities indicated that internal guidance notes or checklists are available to staff on how to identify potentially affected parties. This compares to 57% of local authorities in 2003/2004 and 2001/2002.

Figure 1: Good practice in assessment of environmental effects and notification



Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006 and 2003/2004, questions 6.3–6.5; 2001/2002, questions 6.7–6.9; and 1999/2000, questions 6.6–6.8.

Monitoring processing timeframes

Local authorities were asked if they monitored and reported on whether resource consents are processed within statutory timeframes.

In 2005/2006, all 85 local authorities indicated that they monitor whether consents are processed within statutory time limits. Eleven advised they do so daily, 25 weekly, 34 monthly and the remainder use other methods (such as quarterly or a combination of timeframes). This compares to 100% monitoring in 2003/2004 and 97% in 2001/2002.

In 2005/2006, 79% (67) of local authorities undertook formal monitoring and reporting of consent processing performance, the results of which are available to ratepayers. This is the same as for 2003/2004, but lower than the 85% in 2001/2002.

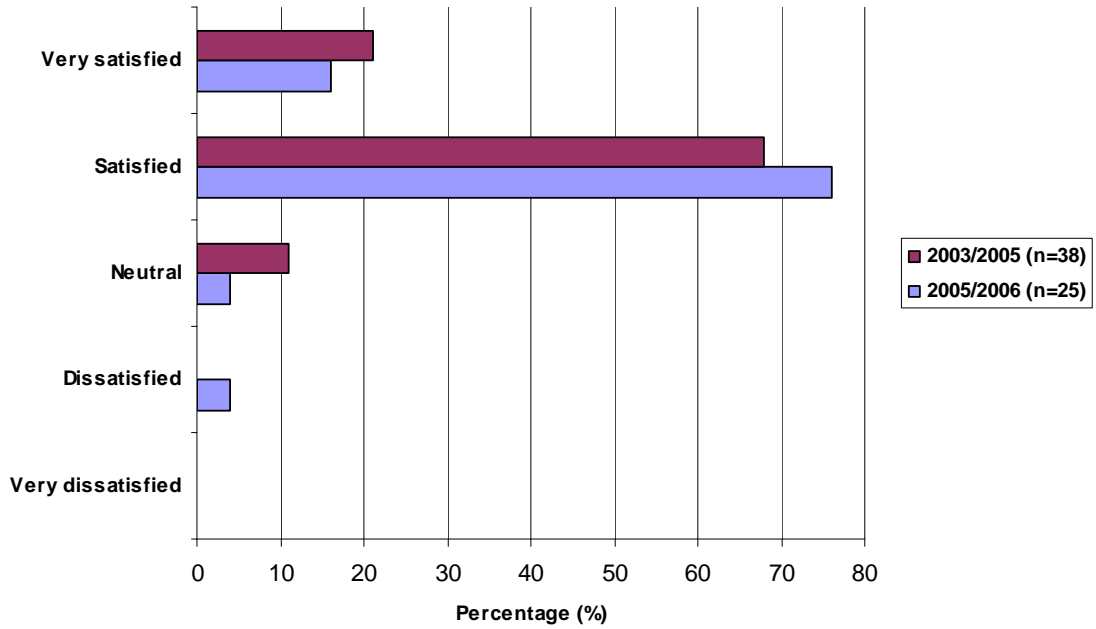
Customer satisfaction

Local authorities were asked whether they used satisfaction surveys for resource consent processes. There is no statutory duty to use customer satisfaction surveys, but it is considered good practice in order to obtain feedback on customer perceptions of the resource consent application process.

In 2005/2006, 29% (25) of local authorities used customer satisfaction surveys. This compares to 44% of local authorities in 2003/2004 and 37% in 2001/2002.

Of those 25, zero reported a very dissatisfied level of satisfaction, one dissatisfied, one neutral, 19 satisfied and four very satisfied. Refer to Figure 2 for a comparison with 2003/2004.

Figure 2: Customer satisfaction for 2005/2006 and 2003/2004



Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 6.12–6.13; and 2003/2004, questions 6.13–6.14.

Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement

This section provides information on local authority monitoring and enforcement activities. Specifically, it reports on:

- section 35 monitoring
- complaints about breaches of the Resource Management Act (RMA)
- compliance with resource consent conditions
- resolution of complaint and consent compliance breaches.

Section 35 monitoring

Local authorities were asked whether or not they monitored and reported on policies, processes and environmental outcomes as required under section 35 of the RMA. Under section 35 local authorities are responsible for 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
- complaints.

Sections 35(2A) and 35(2)(b) of the RMA 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.

Table 13: Percentage of local authorities monitoring and reporting in 2005/2006

Local authority type		Regional	Territorial	Unitary	All
State of the environment (<i>n</i> =84)	Monitor	100%	46%	100%	57%
	Report	92%	22%	80%	36%
Suitability and effectiveness of policies and plans (<i>n</i> =84)	Monitor	75%	52%	60%	56%
	Report	58%	27%	40%	32%
Delegated/transferred functions (<i>n</i> =85)	Monitor	67%	44%	40%	47%
	Report	50%	29%	40%	33%
Compliance with conditions (<i>n</i> =85)	Monitor	100%	93%	80%	93%
	Report	100%	47%	60%	55%
Complaints register (<i>n</i> =85)	Monitor	100%	81%	80%	84%
	Report	100%	46%	80%	55%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, question 4.1.

Complaints about breaches of the Resource Management Act

Local authorities were asked to indicate the number of complaints concerning alleged breaches of the RMA, including excessive noise complaints.

In 2005/2006, 109,964 complaints were recorded by the 81 local authorities able to provide this information. This compares to 84 authorities recording 117,655 complaints in 2003/2004 and 109,609 in 2001/2002.

Table 14 details the number of complaints recorded in 2005/2006 by different local authority types. There are some limitations to this data due to:

- some local authorities not distinguishing between excessive noise complaints and other complaints in their systems
- some local authorities recording both complaints and enquiries in their systems
- some local authorities not recording a complaint if it was resolved through informal action.

Table 14: Complaints about breaches of the RMA recorded in 2005/2006

Local authority type	Excessive noise complaints		Other complaints		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Regional	0	0	12,519	100	12,519	11
Territorial	80,256	88	11,034	12	91,290	83
Unitary	4,114	67	2,041	33	6,155	6
All	84,370	77	25,594	23	109,964	100

Source: RMA Survey of local authorities 2005/2006, question 4.2.

Resolution of complaints

Local authorities were asked for numbers of complaints resolved through different enforcement methods. The following enforcement options are available under the RMA:

- enforcement orders
- abatement notices
- excessive noise directions
- prosecutions
- informal means
- infringement notices.

In 2005/2006 there were 24,173 excessive noise directions; 21 enforcement orders; 1,004 abatement notices; 860 infringement notices; and 60 prosecutions. Over half of all complaints (56%) were resolved through informal means or were minor administrative matters not requiring further action.

Compliance with consent conditions

Local authorities were asked for the number of resource consents that required monitoring, the number that were monitored and the number that were fully compliant with their consent conditions.

In 2005/2006, 59% of resource consents that required monitoring were monitored. This compares to 60% in 2003/2004 and 64% in 2001/2002. Of the consents that were monitored in 2005/2006, 74% fully complied with their consent conditions, the same percentage as for 2003/2004 and slightly higher than the 72% reported in 2001/2002.

Resolution of breaches of consent conditions

Local authorities were asked for numbers of breaches of resource consent conditions resolved through different enforcement methods.

In 2005/2006, a total of 6,194 breaches of resource consent conditions were recorded. This compares to 9,137 breaches in 2003/2004 and 5,174 in 2001/2002.

In 2005/2006, breaches were resolved using informal means in 63% (3,902) of cases. For those resolved using formal resolution methods there were six enforcement orders, 615 abatement notices, 80 excessive noise directions, 621 infringement notices and 26 prosecutions.

Infringement notices

Local authorities were asked for information on the status of infringement notices.

In 2005/2006, 1,507 infringement notices were issued. This compares to 1,157 in 2003/2004 and 620 in 2001/2002.

Table 15: Number and percentage of infringement notices issued by local authority type

Local authority type	1999/2000 (n=58)		2001/2002 (n=85)		2003/2004 (n=80)		2005/2006 (n=85)	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Regional	58	56%	335	54%	503	43.5%	785	52%
Territorial	42	41%	250	40%	561	48.5%	636	42%
Unitary	3	3%	35	6%	93	8%	86	6%
All	103	100%	620	100%	1,157	100%	1,507	100%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006 and 2003/2004, question 4.7; 2001/2002, question 4.17; and 1999/2000, question 4.21.

Of the 1,507 infringement notices issued in 2005/2006, 16% (238) were withdrawn and 1% (19) were appealed to the Environment Court. The remainder were either paid immediately or still in progress at the end of the survey period.

Māori Participation in Resource Management Act Processes

This section provides information on how local authorities provide opportunities for Māori participation in Resource Management Act (RMA) processes. It was significantly revised in the 2005/2006 survey. Specifically, it reports on:

- funding for Māori participation in RMA processes
- Māori input into consents and plans
- advice to resource consent applicants on Māori interests.

Funding for Māori participation in RMA processes

Local authorities were asked whether they made a budgetary commitment to Māori/iwi participation in RMA processes.

In 2005/2006, 38% (32) of local authorities reported they had made a budgetary commitment. This compares to 56% making a budgetary commitment in 2003/2004 and 49% in 2001/2002.

Māori input into resource consents and plans

Local authorities were asked whether they have a written criteria or a set policy for their staff to determine when tangata whenua are considered an affected party to resource consent applications and should be notified of the proposal.

In 2005/2006, 59% (50) of local authorities had a written criteria or a set policy. This compares to 65% of local authorities in 2003/2004 and 59% in 2001/2002.

Several new questions were asked about Māori input into resource consents and plans for the 2005/2006 survey:

- 89% (76) of local authorities have standard resource consent conditions which cover the discovery of significant sites or items to tangata whenua.
- 21% (18) of local authorities involve tangata whenua involvement in resource consent monitoring.
- When asked about memorandum of understandings, protocols, joint management agreements or service level agreements with tangata whenua, 61% (52) local authorities reported they have formal arrangements and 54% (46) reported they have informal arrangements.

Iwi management plans can be used for input into consents and plans and local authorities are required to take iwi management plans into account when preparing plans or policy statements. Guidance on iwi management plans is provided in *Whakamaui ki Nga Kaupapa: Making the best of iwi management plans under the Resource Management Act 1991*, available on the Ministry for the Environment website: www.mfe.govt.nz.

Advice to resource consent applicants on Māori interests

Local authorities were asked whether they provided advice or an indication to applicants that their resource consent may be of interest/concern to iwi/hapu.

In 2005/2006, 96% (82) of local authorities provided advice or an indication to applicants. These 82 local authorities were asked to indicate whether this generally occurred prior or after formal lodgement – 68% (56) indicated that it generally occurred prior and 32% (26) indicated that it generally occurred after. Local authorities had to choose the option that most generally occurred, but it should be noted that some local authorities do provide this information both prior and after formal lodgement of an application.

Local authorities were asked whether they had a policy requiring a cultural impact assessment as part of the resource application when a site, species or resource is of concern to tangata whenua. In 2005/2006, 32% (27) of local authorities did have a policy.

Preparation of a cultural impact assessment report to accompany, or form part of an assessment of environmental effects, is good practice for any proposal that may have a significant effect on RMA Part 2 matters pertaining to tangata whenua. A cultural impact assessment can identify likely effects of a proposal on cultural values and interests. Early identification of potential effects can enable modification of the proposal to avoid potential effects and assist in identifying how the effects can be remedied or mitigated.

Plan Changes and Variations

This section was new in the 2005/2006 survey questionnaire. It reports on:

- council and privately initiated changes to operative plans
- variations to proposed plans.

Council and privately initiated changes to operative plans

Changes to operative district or regional plans can be initiated by the council or privately by anyone. Eighty-four local authorities were able to report on changes to operative plans. Of these, 43% (36) reported that they had completed a council initiated plan change and 13% (11) reported they had completed a privately initiated plan change in 2005/2006. There were 127 council initiated plan changes and 20 privately initiated plan changes.

In 2005/2006, 12% (10) councils reported that they had declined or withdrawn a council or privately initiated plan change. There were 11 council or privately initiated plan changes declined or withdrawn.

Variations to proposed plans

Variations to proposed district or regional plans can only be initiated by the council. Eighty-four councils were able to report on variations to proposed district or regional plans. Of these, 18% (15) reported that they had completed a variation to a proposed plan and 2% (2) reported they had declined or withdrawn a variation to a proposed plan in 2005/2006. There were 37 variations to proposed plans and two variations were declined or withdrawn.

Table 16: Number of plan changes and variations by local authority type

Local authority type	Number of changes to operative plans			Number of variations to proposed plans	
	Council initiated completed	Privately initiated completed	Declined/withdrawn	Completed	Declined/withdrawn
Regional	3	0	2	2	1
Territorial	112	18	9	26	1
Unitary	12	2	0	9	0
All	127	20	11	37	2

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 7.1–7.5.

Appendix 1: Number of Resource Consents Processed

Group	Local authority	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004	2005/2006
Territorial authorities group 1	Carterton District Council	82	49	66	74
	Gore District Council	98	83	79	48
	Kaikoura District Council	58	104	103	97
	Kawerau District Council	11	8	11	17
	Mackenzie District Council	74	43	113	98
	Opotiki District Council	58	40	49	62
	Rangitikei District Council	91	96	66	89
	South Waikato District Council	78	97	90	107
	Stratford District Council	32	36	52	92
	Tararua District Council	55	59	64	92
	Waimate District Council	48	47	56	51
	Wairoa District Council	41	38	44	41
	Waitomo District Council	55	51	66	87
Territorial authorities group 2	Ashburton District Council	141	177	216	231
	Buller District Council	57	86	88	150
	Central Hawke's Bay District Council	93	124	150	177
	Clutha District Council	72	75	108	121
	Grey District Council	86	61	105	144
	Hauraki District Council	173	126	134	212
	Horowhenua District Council	222	186	239	298
	Hurunui District Council	200	143	256	220
	Invercargill City Council	306	232	244	233
	Kaipara District Council	174	190	251	226
	Masterton District Council	120	140	196	176
	Matamata-Piako District Council	193	214	184	225
	Otorohanga District Council	69	54	87	115
	Ruapehu District Council	92	69	121	133
	South Taranaki District Council	131	164	195	268
	South Wairarapa District Council	192	170	191	136
	Southland District Council	176	246	253	233
	Timaru District Council	293	286	276	Not provided
	Upper Hutt City Council	246	200	241	248
	Waitaki District Council	91	116	169	144
Wanganui District Council	242	215	195	280	
Westland District Council	58	93	148	155	

Group	Local authority	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004	2005/2006
Territorial authorities group 3	Central Otago District Council	161	206	424	454
	Franklin District Council	422	314	536	465
	Hastings District Council	514	466	569	523
	Hutt City Council	738	622	641	551
	Kapiti Coast District Council	385	298	323	379
	Manawatu District Council	187	147	270	315
	Napier City Council	375	310	354	351
	New Plymouth District Council	402	414	600	624
	Palmerston North City Council	506	447	641	489
	Papakura District Council	402	249	290	359
	Porirua City Council	318	358	305	372
	Selwyn District Council	515	529	591	496
	Taupo District Council	457	511	659	419
	Tauranga City Council	696	526	607	450
	Thames-Coromandel District Council	472	565	602	565
	Waikato District Council	448	472	577	517
	Waimakariri District Council	604	402	790	608
	Waipa District Council	453	484	645	554
	Western Bay of Plenty District Council	421	414	655	541
	Whakatane District Council	294	229	313	311
Whangarei District Council	820	747	570	471	
Territorial authorities group 4	Auckland City Council	6,183	5,649	7,215	6,057
	Christchurch City Council	2,604	2,489	2,721	2,520
	Dunedin City Council	832	780	1,073	879
	Far North District Council	795	763	827	815
	Hamilton City Council	963	588	782	795
	Manukau City Council	2,013	1,808	1,901	1,490
	North Shore City Council	2,374	2,385	2,563	2,082
	Queenstown-Lakes District Council	745	964	1,029	1,095
	Rodney District Council	1,319	1,403	1,603	1,484
	Rotorua District Council	675	536	530	664
	Waitakere City Council	2,092	1,506	1,815	1,579
	Wellington City Council	1,550	1,323	1,423	1,200

Group	Local authority	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004	2005/2006
Regional councils	Auckland Regional Council	721	1,042	997	1,172
	Environment Bay of Plenty	393	732	1,022	1,115
	Environment Canterbury	1,801	2,390	2,420	3,381
	Environment Southland	414	731	621	749
	Environment Waikato	1,036	1,192	1,091	1,384
	Hawke's Bay Regional Council	540	811	629	825
	Horizons Regional Council	490	450	284	300
	Northland Regional Council	632	931	1,076	867
	Otago Regional Council	620	675	784	819
	Taranaki Regional Council	261	478	568	433
	Wellington Regional Council	665	691	748	697
	West Coast Regional Council	607	1,520	554	493
Unitary authorities	Chatham Islands Council	9	2	5	2
	Gisborne District Council	610	576	676	554
	Marlborough District Council	1,327	2,037	1,955	1,939
	Nelson City Council	467	408	507	572
	Tasman District Council	816	1,187	1,165	912
Total consents processed		48,045	49,012	54,658	51,768

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006 and 2003/2004, question 1.1; and 2001/2002 and 1999/2000, question 1.3.

Appendix 2: Percentage of Resource Consents Notified

Group	Local authority	1998/1999	2001/2002	2003/2004		2005/2006	
		% publicly notified	% publicly notified	% publicly notified	% limited notification	% publicly notified	% limited notification
Territorial authorities group 1	Carterton District Council	0.00%	18.40%	1.52%	1.52%	4.05%	14.86%
	Gore District Council	2.00%	0.00%	5.06%	2.53%	0.00%	4.17%
	Kaikoura District Council	0.00%	5.80%	6.80%	1.94%	9.28%	2.06%
	Kawerau District Council	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	0.00%
	Mackenzie District Council	0.00%	4.70%	0.88%	0.88%	2.04%	0.00%
	Opotiki District Council	0.00%	0.00%	4.08%	2.04%	0.00%	0.00%
	Rangitikei District Council	0.00%	4.20%	1.52%	0.00%	1.12%	2.25%
	South Waikato District Council	2.60%	0.00%	1.11%	1.11%	0.00%	1.87%
	Stratford District Council	9.40%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%
	Tararua District Council	0.00%	0.00%	1.56%	1.56%	2.17%	0.00%
	Waimate District Council	0.00%	4.30%	0.00%	36.36%	1.96%	3.92%
	Wairoa District Council	4.90%	0.00%	11.36%	0.00%	2.44%	0.00%
	Waitomo District Council	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.15%	2.30%
Territorial authorities group 2	Ashburton District Council	5.70%	1.70%	2.31%	2.78%	1.30%	1.30%
	Buller District Council	3.50%	3.50%	5.68%	5.68%	2.67%	12.67%
	Central Hawke's Bay District Council	0.00%	0.80%	0.00%	0.67%	0.56%	0.00%
	Clutha District Council	5.60%	1.30%	2.78%	0.00%	1.65%	2.48%
	Grey District Council	4.70%	4.90%	2.86%	2.86%	6.94%	2.08%
	Hauraki District Council	1.70%	0.00%	2.24%	0.00%	0.00%	0.47%
	Horowhenua District Council	1.80%	2.70%	0.00%	1.26%	0.67%	0.67%
	Hurunui District Council	4.50%	5.60%	1.95%	0.00%	0.00%	1.36%
	Invercargill City Council	0.70%	0.90%	1.64%	3.28%	2.58%	4.29%
	Kaipara District Council	8.00%	6.30%	3.59%	2.39%	8.85%	2.65%
	Masterton District Council	2.50%	2.90%	3.06%	0.00%	2.27%	1.14%
	Matamata-Piako District Council	10.90%	3.70%	0.54%	0.54%	0.00%	4.44%
	Otorohanga District Council	0.00%	1.90%	2.30%	0.00%	0.00%	0.87%
	Ruapehu District Council	5.40%	1.40%	2.48%	0.83%	3.76%	2.26%
	South Taranaki District Council	5.30%	4.30%	0.51%	1.54%	0.37%	2.99%
	South Wairarapa District Council	15.10%	5.30%	8.38%	4.71%	16.91%	2.94%
	Southland District Council	1.10%	4.10%	2.37%	0.79%	2.09%	0.84%
	Timaru District Council	3.80%	3.10%	1.81%	2.17%	Not provided	
	Upper Hutt City Council	7.70%	0.50%	1.24%	1.24%	0.00%	1.61%
	Waitaki District Council	6.60%	8.60%	1.78%	1.18%	3.47%	0.69%
Wanganui District Council	2.50%	1.40%	1.54%	1.54%	0.36%	0.71%	
Westland District Council	3.40%	2.20%	1.35%	1.35%	2.58%	1.94%	

Group	Local authority	1998/1999	2001/2002	2003/2004		2005/2006	
		% publicly notified	% publicly notified	% publicly notified	% limited notification	% publicly notified	% limited notification
Territorial authorities group 3	Central Otago District Council	11.20%	3.90%	10.61%	1.89%	9.47%	1.54%
	Franklin District Council	4.30%	5.10%	2.80%	0.00%	2.15%	1.08%
	Hastings District Council	1.60%	1.30%	2.28%	0.00%	2.87%	0.96%
	Hutt City Council	2.60%	3.70%	4.84%	1.09%	1.81%	1.81%
	Kapiti Coast District Council	3.40%	2.70%	0.62%	1.24%	0.53%	0.79%
	Manawatu District Council	1.10%	2.00%	0.37%	3.33%	0.00%	1.90%
	Napier City Council	1.10%	5.20%	2.54%	0.00%	1.99%	0.28%
	New Plymouth District Council	2.70%	2.20%	0.83%	0.50%	0.64%	1.12%
	Palmerston North City Council	1.00%	2.00%	0.47%	0.47%	1.43%	1.23%
	Papakura District Council	0.50%	2.80%	1.38%	1.03%	0.56%	0.84%
	Porirua City Council	3.10%	2.00%	2.30%	1.64%	1.61%	2.69%
	Selwyn District Council	20.00%	9.50%	19.63%	2.37%	5.04%	4.03%
	Taupo District Council	2.60%	3.70%	5.01%	0.00%	6.21%	1.19%
	Tauranga City Council	1.30%	1.10%	1.98%	0.82%	5.33%	0.89%
	Thames-Coromandel District Council	6.80%	3.00%	2.66%	2.33%	1.42%	2.48%
	Waikato District Council	2.90%	1.90%	3.12%	0.17%	0.19%	0.77%
	Waimakariri District Council	14.40%	15.20%	2.41%	0.13%	5.26%	0.82%
	Waipa District Council	3.80%	1.70%	1.24%	0.78%	0.36%	2.71%
	Western Bay of Plenty District Council	2.90%	2.90%	1.53%	0.92%	2.22%	0.92%
Whakatane District Council	3.40%	3.90%	2.88%	2.24%	2.57%	3.22%	
Whangarei District Council	6.10%	11.60%	9.30%	1.58%	11.68%	2.12%	
Territorial authorities group 4	Auckland City Council	0.80%	1.00%	0.93%	0.10%	0.97%	0.48%
	Christchurch City Council	2.40%	1.70%	1.65%	0.55%	0.95%	1.63%
	Dunedin City Council	6.70%	4.00%	3.26%	0.75%	4.89%	1.25%
	Far North District Council	7.50%	7.70%	2.18%	0.24%	4.91%	2.58%
	Hamilton City Council	3.20%	2.90%	1.28%	0.77%	1.01%	2.89%
	Manukau City Council	1.50%	1.30%	0.89%	0.21%	0.67%	1.01%
	North Shore City Council	1.60%	1.00%	1.68%	0.04%	2.02%	0.43%
	Queenstown-Lakes District Council	8.60%	8.80%	5.73%	0.19%	4.02%	0.64%
	Rodney District Council	6.60%	5.90%	5.36%	0.81%	4.45%	1.89%
	Rotorua District Council	2.80%	2.60%	1.70%	0.00%	1.05%	2.11%
	Waitakere City Council	0.80%	0.60%	0.28%	0.33%	0.32%	0.00%
	Wellington City Council	2.60%	2.60%	1.76%	0.91%	1.17%	1.33%

Group	Local authority	1998/1999	2001/2002	2003/2004		2005/2006	
		% publicly notified	% publicly notified	% publicly notified	% limited notification	% publicly notified	% limited notification
Regional councils	Auckland Regional Council	10.10%	17.20%	7.12%	0.40%	7.51%	0.60%
	Environment Bay of Plenty	9.90%	11.10%	10.96%	0.88%	8.07%	1.35%
	Environment Canterbury	6.20%	5.30%	4.79%	0.21%	4.08%	1.27%
	Environment Southland	9.40%	14.80%	12.72%	1.45%	8.81%	1.20%
	Environment Waikato	16.50%	11.40%	7.79%	1.10%	3.83%	1.37%
	Hawke's Bay Regional Council	7.60%	2.30%	1.59%	0.79%	1.33%	0.48%
	Horizons Regional Council	23.50%	33.10%	33.10%	0.70%	15.33%	2.00%
	Northland Regional Council	7.60%	8.90%	13.85%	0.37%	7.61%	1.85%
	Otago Regional Council	6.00%	14.20%	13.52%	0.83%	12.09%	1.47%
	Taranaki Regional Council	10.00%	5.20%	1.06%	0.00%	1.15%	2.08%
	Wellington Regional Council	6.00%	12.90%	9.09%	0.53%	6.89%	1.00%
	West Coast Regional Council	23.00%	6.80%	15.88%	2.33%	5.68%	2.64%
Unitary authorities	Chatham Islands Council	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
	Gisborne District Council	14.30%	13.00%	12.57%	0.74%	5.60%	3.07%
	Marlborough District Council	10.40%	26.10%	23.94%	0.61%	25.53%	4.85%
	Nelson City Council	3.00%	1.70%	2.37%	0.20%	2.62%	1.92%
	Tasman District Council	7.20%	9.40%	9.44%	0.34%	7.89%	0.11%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, question 1.6, 2003/2004, question 1.5, 2001/2002, question 1.7 and 1999/2000, question 1.8.

Appendix 3: Percentage of Resource Consents where Further Information was Requested

Group	Local authority	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004	2005/2006
Territorial authorities group 1	Carterton District Council	3.66%	16.33%	25.76%	39.19%
	Gore District Council	14.29%	3.61%	11.39%	2.08%
	Kaikoura District Council	46.55%	49.04%	47.57%	36.08%
	Kawerau District Council	27.27%	0.00%	45.45%	0.00%
	Mackenzie District Council	72.97%	30.23%	44.25%	39.80%
	Opotiki District Council	5.17%	15.00%	36.73%	32.26%
	Rangitikei District Council	32.97%	27.08%	40.91%	74.16%
	South Waikato District Council	47.44%	15.46%	43.33%	34.58%
	Stratford District Council	18.75%	30.56%	26.92%	26.09%
	Tararua District Council	0.00%	6.78%	7.81%	5.43%
	Waimate District Council	12.50%	46.81%	53.57%	17.65%
	Wairoa District Council	51.22%	57.89%	43.18%	24.39%
	Waitomo District Council	5.45%	9.80%	9.09%	10.34%
Territorial authorities group 2	Ashburton District Council	19.15%	14.69%	20.83%	15.15%
	Buller District Council	43.86%	54.65%	50.00%	42.00%
	Central Hawke's Bay District Council	24.73%	4.84%	18.00%	23.16%
	Clutha District Council	Not provided	2.67%	0.93%	Not provided
	Grey District Council	1.16%	57.38%	63.81%	55.56%
	Hauraki District Council	42.77%	34.92%	47.01%	55.66%
	Horowhenua District Council	4.95%	6.99%	18.83%	Not provided
	Hurunui District Council	26.50%	37.76%	55.47%	52.27%
	Invercargill City Council	10.46%	14.22%	65.57%	65.67%
	Kaipara District Council	41.95%	44.21%	35.46%	45.13%
	Masterton District Council	0.83%	1.43%	20.92%	22.16%
	Matamata-Piako District Council	45.60%	36.92%	60.87%	48.00%
	Otorohanga District Council	13.04%	51.85%	44.83%	44.35%
	Ruapehu District Council	2.17%	28.99%	50.41%	36.09%
	South Taranaki District Council	1.53%	40.85%	31.28%	39.93%
	South Wairarapa District Council	15.10%	4.71%	0.00%	55.15%
	Southland District Council	48.30%	52.85%	41.11%	36.48%
	Timaru District Council	Not provided	10.49%	63.41%	Not provided
	Upper Hutt City Council	74.80%	30.00%	27.39%	42.34%
	Waitaki District Council	7.69%	23.28%	25.44%	20.14%
Wanganui District Council	10.33%	17.21%	18.46%	42.14%	
Westland District Council	5.17%	2.15%	9.46%	14.19%	

Group	Local authority	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004	2005/2006
Territorial authorities group 3	Central Otago District Council	21.12%	30.10%	36.79%	40.09%
	Franklin District Council	29.62%	43.95%	41.42%	60.65%
	Hastings District Council	29.18%	34.33%	30.40%	43.21%
	Hutt City Council	10.16%	30.71%	13.88%	55.90%
	Kapiti Coast District Council	29.35%	31.88%	30.34%	32.19%
	Manawatu District Council	2.67%	6.80%	7.41%	25.71%
	Napier City Council	57.33%	25.81%	25.99%	18.80%
	New Plymouth District Council	14.68%	14.73%	25.17%	23.88%
	Palmerston North City Council	21.54%	17.45%	23.24%	33.13%
	Papakura District Council	18.41%	49.80%	31.38%	30.08%
	Porirua City Council	53.77%	40.78%	54.43%	47.85%
	Selwyn District Council	7.57%	43.48%	54.48%	45.56%
	Taupo District Council	7.88%	34.25%	43.55%	62.53%
	Tauranga City Council	26.72%	29.09%	48.93%	60.89%
	Thames-Coromandel District Council	25.00%	49.91%	0.00%	49.56%
	Waikato District Council	50.45%	60.17%	63.43%	33.27%
	Waimakariri District Council	36.92%	55.47%	42.41%	74.84%
	Waipa District Council	26.27%	33.26%	24.19%	22.38%
	Western Bay of Plenty District Council	36.82%	50.24%	48.85%	43.25%
	Whakatane District Council	50.34%	37.55%	39.62%	67.85%
Whangarei District Council	50.98%	46.18%	50.70%	51.38%	
Territorial authorities group 4	Auckland City Council	43.70%	44.11%	28.83%	29.50%
	Christchurch City Council	32.49%	48.49%	51.64%	50.00%
	Dunedin City Council	39.78%	31.92%	32.34%	34.93%
	Far North District Council	Not provided	82.04%	32.77%	43.44%
	Hamilton City Council	9.14%	4.59%	17.65%	6.42%
	Manukau City Council	Not provided	33.24%	74.96%	Not provided
	North Shore City Council	44.57%	37.74%	31.25%	43.37%
	Queenstown-Lakes District Council	53.56%	67.22%	64.92%	65.02%
	Rodney District Council	25.93%	51.75%	47.72%	44.88%
	Rotorua District Council	68.15%	54.48%	40.19%	Not provided
	Waitakere City Council	33.08%	41.43%	53.28%	Not provided
	Wellington City Council	32.06%	38.25%	42.73%	56.92%

Group	Local authority	1999/2000	2001/2002	2003/2004	2005/2006
Regional councils	Auckland Regional Council	49.24%	45.20%	49.55%	46.59%
	Environment Bay of Plenty	61.32%	53.14%	49.51%	52.56%
	Environment Canterbury	27.21%	18.87%	13.22%	9.85%
	Environment Southland	6.76%	25.72%	33.49%	43.66%
	Environment Waikato	24.61%	33.72%	29.33%	30.78%
	Hawke's Bay Regional Council	12.04%	3.58%	9.86%	12.36%
	Horizons Regional Council	43.67%	52.44%	56.34%	38.00%
	Northland Regional Council	51.58%	36.63%	16.82%	15.22%
	Otago Regional Council	49.52%	32.89%	22.83%	25.64%
	Taranaki Regional Council	16.86%	9.83%	9.68%	11.55%
	Wellington Regional Council	22.72%	21.27%	31.55%	27.26%
	West Coast Regional Council	13.50%	4.67%	31.77%	17.85%
Unitary authorities	Chatham Islands Council	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Gisborne District Council	39.05%	27.60%	38.31%	23.47%
	Marlborough District Council	6.96%	2.11%	5.22%	6.70%
	Nelson City Council	46.46%	75.49%	38.86%	38.99%
	Tasman District Council	25.92%	23.93%	28.58%	35.96%

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 1.8–1.9; 2003/2004, question 1.7; 2001/2002, question 1.8; and 1999/2000, question 1.9.

Appendix 4: Percentage of Resource Consents Processed within Time

Note that the percentages for resource consents processed within time limits should be interpreted with caution as in some cases a local authority may process a small number of consents of a given type. A consent application may also 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. Some local authorities' computer systems did not allow them to account for non-working days and/or section 37 extensions and they may appear to have more decisions outside of statutory timeframes than there actually were.

Group	Local authority	Notified					Limited notified					Non-notified				
		Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)
Territorial authorities group 1	Carterton District Council	100	100				78	100				83	100			
	Gore District Council						0	0				59	89			
	Kaikoura District Council	25	20					50				32	67			
	Kawerau District Council		0									75	100			
	Mackenzie District Council	0	0									98	100			
	Opotiki District Council											73	81			
	Rangitikei District Council		100				100	100				92	95			
	South Waikato District Council						100	0				30	80			
	Stratford District Council							100				100	100			
	Tararua District Council		50									93	81			
	Waimate District Council		0					100				81	81			
	Wairoa District Council		100									80	70			
	Waitomo District Council		0					100				98	97			

Group	Local authority	Notified					Limited notified					Non-notified					
		Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	
Territorial authorities group 2	Ashburton District Council		33					67				95	86				
	Buller District Council	25					50	43				71	75				
	Central Hawke's Bay District Council		0									73	99				
	Clutha District Council	0	0					100				66	76				
	Grey District Council	0	22					0				52	62				
	Hauraki District Council						100					73	92				
	Horowhenua District Council	0	0				0	100				47	85				
	Hurunui District Council							67				92	97				
	Invercargill City Council	100	100				100	100				87	94				
	Kaipara District Council	13	0				17					23	29				
	Masterton District Council	50	50				100	100				87	96				
	Matamata-Piako District Council						100	100				94	97				
	Otorohanga District Council							100				99	100				
	Ruapehu District Council	0	75				100	100				25	54				
	South Taranaki District Council		100				100	86				63	95				
	South Wairarapa District Council	13					0	50				76	62				
	Southland District Council	0	100				0	0				61	74				
	Timaru District Council		Not provided					Not provided					Not provided				
	Upper Hutt City Council						0	100				84	94				
	Waitaki District Council	0	33					0				68	85				
Wanganui District Council		0					50				64	97					
Westland District Council	50	50				100	50				52	58					

Group	Local authority	Notified					Limited notified					Non-notified				
		Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)
Territorial authorities group 3	Central Otago District Council	91	95				100	100				88	90			
	Franklin District Council	67	25				0	0				53	73			
	Hastings District Council	88	86				100	100				62	79			
	Hutt City Council	50	13				0	22				65	95			
	Kapiti Coast District Council	0					0	0				64	83			
	Manawatu District Council						100	100				100	100			
	Napier City Council	100	67					0				85	80			
	New Plymouth District Council	0					100	100				82	99			
	Palmerston North City Council	0	17				33	33				91	97			
	Papakura District Council		0					33				17	40			
	Porirua City Council	100	100				100	100				100	100			
	Selwyn District Council	11	31				80	60				47	51			
	Taupo District Council	22	35				0	0				82	94			
	Tauranga City Council	64	62				100	100				56	54			
	Thames-Coromandel District Council	100	100				71	86				70	78			
	Waikato District Council		100					100				73	90			
	Waimakariri District Council	20	29					20				43	75			
	Waipa District Council		100				100	100				96	97			
	Western Bay of Plenty District Council	50	25				100	50				95	91			
	Whakatane District Council	100	29				80	100				87	93			
Whangarei District Council	53	50				50	88				54	61				

Group	Local authority	Notified					Limited notified					Non-notified				
		Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)
Territorial authorities group 4	Auckland City Council	100	48					45				17	56			
	Christchurch City Council		79				0	85				82	90			
	Dunedin City Council	63	83				100	100				97	99			
	Far North District Council	35	43				44	20				47	58			
	Hamilton City Council	50	50				60	0				100	100			
	Manukau City Council	0	22				67	25				34	32			
	North Shore City Council		57				100	71				82	66			
	Queenstown-Lakes District Council	8	29				0	50				60	65			
	Rodney District Council	63	56	0			61	50				53	62	67		
	Rotorua District Council		43				100	38				77	82			
	Waitakere City Council		20									72	83			
	Wellington City Council	50	50				0	73				81	81			
Regional councils	Auckland Regional Council		88	80	100	87			100	100	100		99	99	99	97
	Environment Bay of Plenty		100	89	80	76		100	100	50	67		96	96	97	95
	Environment Canterbury		86	100	28	36		50	0	0	63		90	77	36	71
	Environment Southland		100	22	33	39		0		33	40		88	68	53	54
	Environment Waikato		92	88	83	90		33	100	29	75		92	73	81	82
	Hawke's Bay Regional Council					100				100	100		100	100	100	97
	Horizons Regional Council		100		100	100		100			100		100	100	100	100
	Northland Regional Council		100	81	100	100		100	80	100	100		100	97	100	98
	Otago Regional Council		29	86	10	45		100		33	50		88	98	71	76
	Taranaki Regional Council			100	100			100		100	100		100	100	100	100
	Wellington Regional Council		100	100	50	100		100		100	100		99	100	95	97
	West Coast Regional Council		100	60	100	83		100	100		88		83	100	86	91

Group	Local authority	Notified					Limited notified					Non-notified				
		Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)	Subdivision (%)	Land-use (%)	Coastal (%)	Water (%)	Discharge (%)
Unitary authorities	Chatham Islands Council						100					100				
	Gisborne District Council		29		92		50	70		100	100	53	73	25	74	72
	Marlborough District Council	15	15	35	61	15	22	21	26	33	0	33	69	81	74	38
	Nelson City Council	100	69		0		50	57				16	42	100	0	52
	Tasman District Council	21	50		33	33	0					29	81	55	76	68

Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 2.1–2.3.

Appendix 5: Local Authorities Adopting Good Practice Procedures for Timeframes

Local authority	Checks resource consent applications for completeness within one full working day	Formally receives resource consent applications within one full working day	Uses section 37 of the RMA to extend statutory time limits
Ashburton District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Auckland City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Auckland Regional Council	No	No	Yes
Buller District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carterton District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Central Hawke's Bay District Council	No	Yes	No
Central Otago District Council	No	No	Yes
Chatham Islands Council	Yes	Yes	No
Christchurch City Council	No	Yes	Yes
Clutha District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dunedin City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Environment Bay of Plenty	Yes	Yes	Yes
Environment Canterbury	No	Yes	Yes
Environment Southland	Yes	Yes	Yes
Environment Waikato	Yes	Yes	Yes
Far North District Council	No	No	Yes
Franklin District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gisborne District Council	No	No	No
Gore District Council	No	No	Yes
Grey District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hamilton City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hastings District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hauraki District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Horizons Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Horowhenua District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hurunui District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Hutt City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Invercargill City Council	Yes	Yes	No
Kaikoura District Council	Yes	Yes	No
Kaipara District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Kapiti Coast District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes

Local authority	Checks resource consent applications for completeness within one full working day	Formally receives resource consent applications within one full working day	Uses section 37 of the RMA to extend statutory time limits
Kawerau District Council	No	No	Yes
Mackenzie District Council	No	No	Yes
Manawatu District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manukau City Council	No	Yes	Yes
Marlborough District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Masterton District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Matamata-Piako District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Napier City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nelson City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Plymouth District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Shore City Council	No	No	No
Northland Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Opotiki District Council	No	Yes	No
Otago Regional Council	No	No	Yes
Otorohanga District Council	Yes	No	No
Palmerston North City Council	No	No	Yes
Papakura District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Porirua City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Queenstown-Lakes District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rangitikei District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rodney District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rotorua District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ruapehu District Council	Yes	Yes	No
Selwyn District Council	No	Yes	No
South Taranaki District Council	No	Yes	No
South Waikato District Council	No	Yes	Yes
South Wairarapa District Council	No	No	Yes
Southland District Council	No	No	No
Stratford District Council	Yes	Yes	No
Taranaki Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tararua District Council	Yes	No	Yes
Tasman District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Taupo District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Tauranga City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thames-Coromandel District Council	No	No	Yes

Local authority	Checks resource consent applications for completeness within one full working day	Formally receives resource consent applications within one full working day	Uses section 37 of the RMA to extend statutory time limits
Timaru District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Upper Hutt City Council	No	No	Yes
Waikato District Council	No	No	Yes
Waimakariri District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Waimate District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waipa District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Wairoa District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waitakere City Council	No	No	Yes
Waitaki District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waitomo District Council	No	Yes	No
Wanganui District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wellington City Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wellington Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Coast Regional Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
Westland District Council	No	Yes	No
Whakatane District Council	No	Yes	Yes
Whangarei District Council	Yes	Yes	Yes




Source: RMA survey of local authorities 2005/2006, questions 6.6–8.8.

Appendix 6: 2005/2006 Survey Questionnaire

What's changed in 2005/2006

The **wording** and structure of some questions has been simplified to clarify meaning. There are also a number of **new questions** and questions that have now **been split**.

Changes in the survey are shown by the three indicators below. When you see these in the survey please adjust your RMA survey reports accordingly.

Type of change	Indicator
Wording changes	
New question	
Previous survey question now split	

The review of the 2003/2004 survey highlighted a small number of questions that were either no longer appropriate or the quality of data collected was poor. These questions have been deleted from the 2005/2006 RMA survey questionnaire (please refer to the appendix at the back of the questionnaire for a list of these questions).

General survey approach

When completing the survey please use the following approach:

- Unless otherwise stated we are only interested in resource consents as defined by **section 87** of the RMA.
- Include resource consents that have been processed to a decision during the 2005/2006 financial year by your local authority.
- Include resource consent applications lodged before the 2005/2006 financial year if the decisions to grant or decline them were made within the 2005/2006 financial year.
- If there are multiple resource consents in the one application form, then count the number of resource consents included in that form.
- Some local authorities may have issued deemed permits between July 2005 and June 2006 for the purposes of this survey please treat these as resource consents.

The survey excludes resource consent applications withdrawn before a decision was made (even if that application involved staff time before it was withdrawn).

Definitions of terms and explanation of the questions are provided at the back to assist with completing the questionnaire.

1. Resource consent processing statistics

Resource consents processed to a decision in 2005/2006



- 1.1 How many resource consents (as defined in **section 87** of the RMA) were processed through to a decision by your local authority in the 2005/2006 financial year?

Changes in resource consent conditions



- 1.2 How many resource consents processed to a decision by your local authority were changes in resource consent conditions (as defined under **section 127** of the RMA) in the 2005/2006 financial year?



- 1.3 How many resource consents processed to a decision by your local authority were changes in resource consent conditions (as defined under **section 128** of the RMA) in the 2005/2006 financial year?

Certificates of compliance



- 1.4 How many certificates of compliance were processed to a decision by your local authority under **section 139** of the RMA in the 2005/2006 financial year?

Resource consents declined

- 1.5 How many resource consents processed to a decision were declined by your local authority in the 2005/2006 financial year?

Type of resource consent

- 1.6 Complete the following table with information about how many of each type of resource consent were processed to a decision by your local authority in the 2005/2006 financial year.

Type of resource consent	Subdivision	Land use	Coastal	Water	Discharge	Total
Number of <u>notified</u> consents processed						Automatic calculation
Number of <u>limited notification</u> consents processed						Automatic calculation
Number of <u>non-notified</u> consents processed						Automatic calculation
Total consents processed	Automatic calculation	Automatic calculation	Automatic calculation	Automatic calculation	Automatic calculation	Automatic calculation

Resource consents by activity status



- 1.7 Complete the following table with information about the activity status of resource consents that were processed to a decision by your local authority in the 2005/2006 financial year.

Activity status	Controlled	Discretionary	Restricted discretionary	Non-complying	Total
Number of consents processed					Calculated automatically

Further information requests



- 1.8 How many resource consents processed in the 2005/2006 year required written requests for further information under **section 92(1)** of the RMA?



- 1.9 How many resource consents processed in the 2005/2006 year required written requests for further information under **section 92(2)** of the RMA?

Pre-hearing meetings



- 1.10 How many notified and limited notified resource consents processed in the 2005/2006 financial year was there a pre-hearing meeting held under **section 99** of the RMA?
- 1.11 How many pre-hearing meetings resulted in issues being resolved so that a hearing was unnecessary?

Type of resource consent decisions

- 1.12 How many resource consents processed during the 2005/2006 year were decisions made by:
- 1.12.1 Local authority officers (under delegated authority)
 - 1.12.2 Independent commissioners (not including councillors or community board members acting as commissioners)
 - 1.12.3 Current councillors and/or community boards acting as commissioners
 - 1.12.4 Councillor hearings panel/committee
 - 1.12.5 Other (e.g. mixed panel of councillors/commissioners)
- Total (automatically calculated)

Objections and appeals made by the applicant on resource consent decisions



1.13 How many objections under **section 357** of the RMA were received by your local authority in relation to a resource consent decision during the 2005/2006 financial year?



1.14 For those objections under section 357 of the RMA in 1.13 above, how many were appealed to the Environment Court **under section 358** of the RMA?

Appeals to the Environment Court on resource consent decisions



1.15 How many resource consent decisions made by your local authority in the 2005/2006 financial year were **appealed under section 120?**

2. Time

Statutory timeframes for notified consents

2.1 Complete the following table with the number of **notified resource consents** (by type) processed to a decision within/outside statutory time limits in the 2005/2006 financial year.

Type	Notified resource consents				Total notified processed
	With hearing		Without hearing		
	Within 70 days	Outside 70 days	Within 50 days	Outside 50 days	
Subdivision					Automatically calculated
Land use					Automatically calculated
Coastal					Automatically calculated
Water					Automatically calculated
Discharge					Automatically calculated

Statutory timeframes for limited notification consents

2.2 Complete the following table with the numbers of **limited notification resource consents** (by type) processed to a decision within/outside statutory time limits in the 2005/2006 financial year.

Type	Limited notification resource consents				Total limited notification processed
	With hearing		Without hearing		
	Within 70 days	Outside 70 days	Within 50 days	Outside 50 days	
Subdivision					Automatically calculated
Land use					Automatically calculated
Coastal					Automatically calculated
Water					Automatically calculated
Discharge					Automatically calculated

Statutory timeframes for non-notified consents

2.3 Complete the following table with the numbers of **non-notified resource consents** (by type) processed to a decision within/outside statutory time limits in the 2005/2006 financial year.

Type	Non-notified resource consents				Total non-notified processed
	With hearing		Without hearing		
	Within 40 days	Outside 40 days	Within 20 days	Outside 20 days	
Subdivision					Automatically calculated
Land use					Automatically calculated
Coastal					Automatically calculated
Water					Automatically calculated
Discharge					Automatically calculated

3. Cost

Notified resource consents

- 3.1 In the 2005/2006 financial year, what was the minimum, median and maximum charges to resource consent applicants for notified resource consents processed in the following resource consent categories?

Consent type	Minimum charge (\$)	Median charge (\$)	Maximum charge (\$)
Subdivision			
Land use			
Water			
Coastal			
Discharge			

Limited-notification resource consents

- 3.2 In the 2005/2006 financial year, what was the minimum, median and maximum charges to resource consent applicants for limited-notification resource consents processed in the following resource consent categories?

Consent type	Minimum charge (\$)	Median charge (\$)	Maximum charge (\$)
Subdivision			
Land use			
Water			
Coastal			
Discharge			

Non-notified resource consents

- 3.3 In the 2005/2006 financial year, what was the minimum, median and maximum charges to resource consent applicants for non-notified resource consents processed in the following resource consent categories?

Consent type	Minimum charge (\$)	Median charge (\$)	Maximum charge (\$)
Subdivision			
Land use			
Water			
Coastal			
Discharge			

4. Monitoring and enforcement

Monitoring and reporting



- 4.1 Did your local authority *monitor or report* results of any of the following in 2005/2006?
- 4.1.1 State of the environment (s 35(2)(a)) – **Monitor: Yes/No; Report Yes/No**
 - 4.1.2 Suitability and effectiveness of policies and plans (s 35(2)(b)) – **Monitor: Yes/No; Report Yes/No**
 - 4.1.3 Exercise of delegated or transferred functions and powers (s 35(2)(c)) – **Monitor: Yes/No; Report Yes/No**
 - 4.1.4 Compliance with resource consent conditions (s 35(2)(d)) – **Monitor: Yes/No; Report Yes/No**
 - 4.1.5 Complaints register (s 35(5)(i)) – **Monitor: Yes/No; Report Yes/No**

Complaints

- 4.2 How many recorded complaints concerning alleged breaches of the RMA (**section 35(5)(i)**) were received by your local authority during the 2005/2006 financial year for the following:
- 4.2.1 Excessive noise complaints
 - 4.2.2 Other complaints

Compliance with consent conditions

- 4.3 How many resource consents required monitoring for compliance with consent conditions in 2005/2006?
- 4.4 How many of the resource consents described in your answer to 4.3 were monitored for consent compliance in 2005/2006?
- 4.5 For those resource consents that were monitored for consent condition compliance in 2005/2006 how many did not comply with their conditions?
- 4.6 How many times were complaints or consent compliance breaches resolved to your local authority's satisfaction through the following formal enforcement and informal actions?

Enforcement action	Complaints	Consent compliance breaches	Total
4.6.1 Enforcement orders			Automatically calculated
4.6.2 Abatement notices			Automatically calculated
4.6.3 Excessive noise directions			Automatically calculated
4.6.4 Prosecutions			Automatically calculated
4.6.5 Informal action			Automatically calculated
4.6.6 Still in progress			Automatically calculated
4.6.7 Infringement notices			Automatically calculated
TOTAL	Automatically calculated	Automatically calculated	Grand total automatically calculated

4.7 How many of the total number of infringement notices were:

4.7.1 Withdrawn

4.7.2 Paid

4.7.3 Appealed

4.7.3 Still in progress

5. Maori participation in Resource Management Act processes



5.1 Does your local authority provide advice or indicate to applicants that their resource consent application may be of interest/concern to iwi/hapu? **Yes/No**



5.2 If you answered “Yes” to 5.1 above does this generally occur prior or after formal lodgement? **Prior/After**



5.3 Does your local authority have written criteria or a set policy to determine whether tangata whenua are considered an affected party to resource consent applications? **Yes/No**



5.4 When a site, species or resource use is of concern to tangata whenua does your council have a policy which requires a cultural impact assessment as part of the resource consent application? **Yes/No**



5.5 Does your local authority have standard resource consent conditions which cover discovery of significant sites or items to tangata whenua? **Yes/No**

5.6 Did your local authority make a budgetary commitment to tangata whenua participation in resource consent processes during 2005/2006? **Yes/No**



5.7 If you answered “Yes” to 5.6 above then please indicate what general type of activities this budgetary commitment was spent on.



5.8 Does your local authority involve tangata whenua in resource consent monitoring? **Yes/No**



5.9 If you answered “Yes” to 5.8 above then please describe tangata whenua involvement in resource consent monitoring.



5.9 Does your local authority have formal or informal Memorandum of Understandings, protocols, joint management agreement or service level agreements with tangata whenua? **Formal: Yes/No; Informal: Yes/No**

6. Good practice in resource consent processing

Pre-application

6.1 For controlled and restricted discretionary activities, do you define for applicants the environmental effects that must be addressed in the resource consent application? **Yes/No**

Application process

6.2 Before commissioning specialist reports do you provide applicants with the opportunity to discuss or dispute the requirements to provide such information/obtain it themselves? **Yes/No**

Assessments of Environmental Effects (AEEs) and notification

6.3 Do staff follow a set structure to check that environmental effects are adequately identified and addressed in AEEs? **Yes/No**

6.4 Are internal guidance notes or checklists available to advise staff when to notify a resource consent application? **Yes/No**

6.5 Are internal guidance notes or checklists available to advise staff how to identify affected parties? **Yes/No**

Monitoring timeframes

6.6 Does your local authority check a resource consent application for completeness (not correctness) within one working day of it arriving at your office? **Yes/No**

6.7 Does your local authority formally receive completed applications for resource consent within one full working day of the application arriving at your office? **Yes/No**

6.8 Does your local authority use s37(1) and/or s37(5A) to extend statutory time limits? **Yes/No**

6.9 If you answered yes to 6.8, how many resource consents processed in the 2005/2006 financial year received extensions using section 37?

- 6.10 Do you monitor whether resource consents are processed within statutory time limits?
- Not at all
 - Daily
 - Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Other, please specify:
- 6.11 Do you formally monitor and report consent processing performance (e.g. prepare an annual report on consent processing performance that is made available to ratepayers)?
Yes/No




Customer satisfaction

- 6.12 Did your local authority run a formal documented consent processing customer satisfaction survey between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006? **Yes/No**
- 6.13 If you answered Yes to question 6.12, indicate the overall level of satisfaction reported by applicants:
- Very satisfied
 - Satisfied
 - Neutral
 - Dissatisfied
 - Very dissatisfied

7. Plan changes and variations

In relation to First Schedule of the RMA, please answer the following questions.

Plan changes

-  7.1 How many **council initiated changes** to operative plans were completed by your local authority in the 2005/2006 financial year?
-  7.2 How many **privately initiated changes** to operative plans were completed by your local authority in the 2005/2006 financial year?
-  7.3 How many **council initiated** and **privately initiated** changes to operative plans were declined or withdrawn in the 2005/2006 financial year?

Variations



7.4 How many **variations** to a proposed plan were **completed** by your local authority in the 2005/2006 financial year?



7.5 How many **variations** to a proposed plan were **declined or withdrawn** in the 2005/2006 financial year?

Definitions and explanations

Section 1: Resource consent processing statistics

- 1.1 A resource consent application is defined as *processed* to a decision once the local authority has approved or declined an application. It **does not** include resource consent applications withdrawn before a decision was made (even if that application involved staff time before it was withdrawn). It **does** include resource consent applications lodged before the 2005/2006 financial year if the decisions to grant or decline them were made within the 2005/2006 financial year.
- 1.2 This question refers to applications made **under section 127**.
- 1.3 This question refers to consent conditions made **under section 128**.
- 1.4 When completing this question exclude any objections made **under section 92** (requests for further information and **under section 139** (certificates of compliance)).
- 1.5 Use the number of objections from question 1.13 to then work out the number appealed to the environment court for question 1.14.
- 1.6 Since there is a 15-working day period for filing an appeal, a decision made in 2005/2006 may have been appealed as late as 21 July 2005. Please include in your answer all decisions made in 2005/2006 that were appealed, where the appeal was filed up to 21 July 2006.
- 1.7 For the purpose of this survey please include any Restricted Coastal Activities under Discretionary Activities.

Section 2: Time

2.1 to 2.3 Resource consent applications are considered to be “within time” if they are processed within:

- 70 working days for notified and limited-notification consent applications involving a hearing
- 50 working days for notified and limited-notification consent applications not involving a hearing
- 40 working days for non-notified consent applications where a hearing was held

- 20 working days for non-notified consent applications where no hearing was held
- or within time limits using section 37.

When completing this section exclude resource consent applications withdrawn before a decision was made (even if that application involved staff time before it was withdrawn).

When completing this section include:

- the length of time taken to get to the initial decision – that is, disregard section 357 decisions
- the processing time clock should be stopped on the date the notice of decision is sent to the applicant and every person that made a submission, NOT the date the decision was made.

Section 3: Cost

3.1 to 3.3 When calculating the charges to the applicant please count the total cost to the applicant as billed by your local authority, **including** any initial charges and any supplementary charges as a result of hearings, information gathered etc.

Where more than one resource consent has been processed at the same time, and billed together in one invoice, average the total cost over the number of consents issued.

Please ensure your answers are **GST exclusive**.

We collect information on the **median** charge to applicants for resource consent processing. The median is the number in the middle of a set of numbers when they are in ascending order. That is, half the numbers have values that are greater than the median, and half have values that are less. If there is an even number of numbers in a set, then the median is the average of the two numbers in the middle.

Note: the median is NOT the same thing as the mean/average.

The easiest way to calculate a median is to use Excel:

1. Open the Excel spreadsheet where your charges data is stored, or export from the programme where it is stored into a single column in an Excel spreadsheet.
2. Click on the first empty cell at the bottom of the column containing the charges data.
3. Click on the = button on the Formula bar. From the drop-down menu, select 'MEDIAN'
4. Make sure the array (cells containing the data) includes **all** the cells with the data (e.g. A1:A100)
5. Click 'OK' to complete the calculation.

Section 4: Monitoring and enforcement

- 4.1 **Monitoring** involves capturing a record of what was monitored. A record of the results of monitoring does not by itself constitute a report.

Reporting is defined as making the results of monitoring available in an understandable format for a defined audience. Reporting can range from informal internal council documents through to publicly available published reports.

- 4.2 Minor issues are often resolved on the spot and not recorded. Complete the questions for recorded issues only. This section refers to complaints about alleged breaches of the RMA (section 35(5)(i)). Do not include information about complaints related to other local authority functions.

- 4.3 A resource consent is defined as requiring monitoring if it is written in the resource consent conditions that it shall be monitored during the period July 1 2005 to June 30 2006.

Consent compliance breaches are those that were monitored or noted in the first instance through compliance monitoring or by council officers. Enforcement or informal action taken as a result of public complaints that led to unscheduled consent compliance monitoring should be recorded in the complaints column.

Informal action is defined as any action that rectifies the situation without recourse to legal procedures.

Section 5: Maori participation

- 5.1 and 5.2 Providing advice to applicants can be over the counter or telephone advice or via an email, letter, or pamphlet.

- 5.2 Please indicate your local authority's standard practice when discussing resource consent applications. If your local authority provides advice both prior and after formal lodgement then please tick both boxes.

- 5.6 This includes the budget for internal staff costs, direct payment to Iwi, and costs of consulting with iwi to facilitate Maori/iwi participation in:

- Resource consent processes
- Plan and policy development
- Consultation
- Incorporating Maori/iwi/hapu advice into plans and policy statements.

Section 6: Good practice

We are collecting information on the use of what the Ministry for the Environment considers to be key elements of good practice in resource consent processing. Good practice should not be considered prescriptive – rather local authorities should consider the applicability of different elements of good practice to their own unique circumstances. These questions relate to **current** practice. Please do not restrict your answers to the 2005/2006 financial year. Where your answer to a question is “Most of the time”, tick the “yes” box.

- 6.1 This question refers to more than a photocopy of the Fourth Schedule, for example having checklists.
- 6.13 The overall level of satisfaction is defined as the overall result of the survey. Surveys will have multiple questions that will be answered by a number of people. An average of the result of the responses to all surveys should be used to determine the overall level of satisfaction.

Good practice note – use of Section 37

The Ministry for the Environment considers it is **good practice** to use section 37 to extend time limits allowed under the RMA rather than running over time limits without informing the applicant and affected parties. Time limits can be extended for up to twice the time limit stated in the RMA (section 37(5)), or for such period as the Consent Authority thinks fit on the request of, or with the agreement of, the applicant (section 37(5A)). Where section 37 has been used to extend time periods, resource consents should be recorded as having been processed within time, provided the limits set for processing through the use of section 37 have not been exceeded.

Section 7: Plan changes and variations

7.1–7.5 ‘Completed’ means that the plan change or variation was successfully incorporated into the operative or proposed plan, potentially with some modifications. Do not include plan changes or variations under appeal to the Environment Court as these have not been completed yet.

Appendix: Removed questions from previous survey

The questions below are not asked for the 2005/2006 RMA survey of local authorities due to either being no longer appropriate, the quality of data collected was poor due to the complexity of the question or this information is being collected elsewhere.

1. Provide the median number of working days taken to process resource consents processed during the 2003/04 financial year.
2. If you have written criteria/set policy to determine whether iwi/hapu are considered an affected party for consent applications? Then do you make such written criteria/set policy available to the public for consent applications?
3. For how many resource consents processed in 2003/2004 was formal consultation with iwi undertaken?
4. How many applications affecting statutory acknowledgements did your local authority receive in the 2003/2004 financial year?
5. Do you use any mechanisms to assist staff to process resource consents within time (e.g. diary reminders)?