



Getting started.

What is an AEE?

An Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) is a written statement identifying the effects of your proposal on the environment. It is a mandatory part of resource consent applications. An AEE compares your project to the objectives, policies and rules in the District Plan, the RMA and other relevant legislation. It describes if any negative effects might result from your proposal, and how you plan to avoid, remedy or mitigate those effects.

If you submit a resource consent application without an AEE, it will be returned to you.

Get in touch to discuss your resource consent application.

A meeting with the planning department can be a great way to make sure you have all the information you need to submit good resource consent applications.

We cannot help you write your Assessment of Environmental Effects because we will be processing it. We can, however, help clarify what needs to go in your AEE, and talk about what happens next.

If you would like to schedule an appointment to get your project started, email us at planning@westlanddc.govt.nz or ring 03 756 9010.

Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842
36 Weld Street, Hokitika 7810
0800 474 834 planning@westlanddc.govt.nz

Guide to an Assessment of Environmental Effects

Applying for resource consent?
Start here.



An AEE must:

1. Describe your proposed activity.
2. Identify the actual and potential effects on the environment of your activity.
3. If the effects are likely to be significant, describe the available alternatives to your proposal.
4. For hazardous substances and installations, discuss the risks to the environment posed by them.
5. Describe how the adverse effects may be avoided, remedied (improved upon) or mitigated (lessened).
6. Identify people affected by the proposal, what consultation you've done with them, if any, and your responses to their views.

District Plan

www.westlanddc.govt.nz/district-plan

Resource Management Act 1991

www.legislation.govt.nz

National Environmental Standards

www.mfe.govt.nz



Where to start

The objectives, policies and rules in a District Plan are there to provide consistency about how activities are dealt with across the district, and to help communities manage the environment in a sustainable way. The council uses those objectives and policies to make resource management decisions. If you find that your proposal doesn't fit very well with the objectives and policies, this is a signal that the council and neighbours will probably have concerns with it.

Assessment of Environmental Effects

An AEE is an objective evaluation of your project compared to the objectives, policies and rules of the District Plan. You'll also compare it to s88, s104 and schedule 4 of the Resource Management Act 1991, and other relevant pieces of legislation like National Environmental Standards and other Acts.

The council's resource consent application forms walk you through the AEE requirements. If you fill in each section of the application

forms in detail, you are on your way to completing an AEE.

Ideally, you would compile the AEE information while you work on your proposal, rather than doing it after your plans have been prepared. Writing an AEE can help you recognise potential problems that could slow or stop the council from processing your application. It is a good opportunity to think about whether you need to make any changes to your proposal to deal with potential adverse effects on the environment.

During your assessment you may identify that you need a specialist (like engineers, archaeologists, or ecologists) to do a report or other work to support your resource consent application. You may also decide to engage a planning consultant to help you if your project is complex.

The more thorough your AEE is, the faster the Council planner can process your application.