

# What you need to know before you apply for a Resource Consent



Resource consents are used to manage the impact that certain activities have on people and the environment.

Regional plans identify activities that require resource consents. There are four types of resource consents that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council can issue:

1. Land use consents
2. Discharge consents
3. Water consents
4. Coastal consents

Subdivision, building and some land use consents are issued by District and City Councils.

## Land use consents

Certain types of land use can have negative environmental effects such as decreased water quality, erosion, flooding or ecological effects. You may need a land use consent if you want to:

- build or alter a bridge, culvert, stopbank or ford,
- construct or alter a well or bore,
- disturb or alter a wetland area,
- disturb the bed of a river or lake (e.g. reclaim, dredge, excavate, drill or erect a structure),
- carry out earthworks, soil cultivation, roading, tracking, mining or quarrying activities,
- plant or clear vegetation,
- install or use a structure (e.g. jetties, retaining walls, steps, boat launch or moorings),
- disturb contaminated or potentially contaminated land, and
- disturb or alter a geothermal surface feature in Rotorua.



*Coastal Protection works, Waihi Beach*

## Discharge consents

Discharge consents cover activities which discharge to water, land or air. You may need a discharge consent if your activity will or *may* discharge:

- Water into water (this includes clean or contaminated water),
- Effluent, waste products or contaminated water onto, or into land,
- Landfill or cleanfill leachate,
- Carry out a nutrient discharging activity (e.g. increase stocking rates within the Rotorua Lakes Catchment area),
- Water and/or contaminants into water, or onto or into land, in association with a geothermal take, and
- Dust, steam, smoke or other contaminants into the air and/or those that create offensive odours.

## Water consents

You may need a water consent if you want to, construct a dam or stopbank, divert a water course or take or use;

- Surface water (e.g. water from a river, stream, dam, lake, spring or the coast),

- Groundwater (e.g. water from an underground source), and
- Geothermal water, heat or energy.

## Coastal consents

Coastal consents relate to resources in the coastal marine area (CMA). The CMA is a defined area of foreshore, seabed, coastal water, and air space above the sea typically taken from the average high tide level on the beach out to the territorial limit (12 nautical miles) and a set distance upstream of most rivers. If you are carrying out an activity near the coast or in a river near the coast, check out the full definition of the CMA in our Regional Coastal Environment Plan at [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz) keywords 'coastal plan'.

You may need a coastal consent if you want to occupy space associated with structures or reclamations or carry out an activity within the CMA such as:

- installing or using a structure (e.g. jetties, retaining walls, steps, boat launch, or moorings),
- reclamations, and
- disturbance (e.g. dredging or associated with construction).

# How to apply for a Resource Consent

You should talk to a Consents Officer for advice before you begin the application process. A Consents Officer can help identify if a consent is needed, and also what information should be submitted.

To contact an officer for helpful advice call 0800 884 880 or visit either Whakatāne or Mount Maunganui Regional Council offices.

## Required information

Making sure that your information is accurate and the application forms are complete will ensure that your application is processed quickly, and will reduce costs.

The application must as a minimum include:

- a completed, signed and dated 'Base Form' (unless applying for a bore or well which has its own form),
- a description of the activity you are proposing,
- any specific information requested on the relevant application form,
- the Ministry for the Environment provides additional advice on preparing AEEs ([www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz)), a description of the site including relevant features such as streams, wetlands, vegetation, past development and the wider environment,
- a detailed description of any consultation undertaken. This includes all written and verbal correspondence, and
- details about the location of your activity such as a map, aerial photograph or detailed sketch plan. You can visit [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz) (Regional Mapping) to use the mapping tool to locate, and print maps of properties.

Your submitted map should at least show:

- your property boundary and neighbouring properties,
- the nearest country road or state highway,
- the location of any waterways, wetlands or wildlife habitats in the area,
- any known historic or waahi tapu sites, and
- any known significant features, including geothermal or archaeological sites.



*Dairy effluent irrigation to pasture requires a resource consent in the Bay of Plenty*



*Works in stream beds such as building bridges or dams may need a consent*



*Structures over the bed of the Rotorua Lakes including jetties, platforms, pontoons, retaining walls and ramps will need a resource consent*

## Cost of Consents

Under the Resource Management Act (RMA), the Bay of Plenty Regional Council will recover costs associated with processing applications, and administering, supervising, and monitoring granted consents.

For more information on resource consents costs view our factsheet 'What does a resource consent cost?' which is available on our website visit [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz).

If you have any questions about costs involved with resource consents or about resource consents in general, contact us on 0800 884 880 or check out our website [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz), search: resource consents