



Resource Consents 2007/08

Key points:

- 703 resource consent applications processed in 2007/08, which represents a 10% increase from the previous reporting period and a return to 2005/06 levels.
- 95% of applications processed on a non-notified basis.
- 50% of all notified applications resolved without a hearing.
- 99% of applications processed within statutory timeframes.
- Land use and water use applications continue to feature strongly, making up 55% and 21% of applications processed, respectively.

What happened in 2007/08?

During the 2007/08 financial year Greater Wellington's consents team processed 703 resource consent applications to a decision. The majority (95%) of applications were non-notified, 4% were fully notified (including applications for changes of consent conditions), and the remaining 1% were limited notified.

Notified applications

The 38 notified and limited notified applications processed relate to 12 proposed developments/activities, including:

Fully notified

- Webstar (Bluestar Print Group (NZ) Ltd) – discharge to air from printing operations in Masterton.
- O'Moore Partnership – to operate a cleanfill and associated activities, Judgeford, Porirua.
- Capital & Coast District Health Board – discharge of contaminants to air from a number of gas and diesel fired appliances at Wellington Hospital, including the hospital's Total Energy Centre.
- Palliser Bay Station (S D Crawford) – discharge of contaminants to land from a communal wastewater system on the Palliser Bay coast, South Wairarapa.
- Chrystall's Stopbank (Greater Wellington Flood Protection) – construction of a stopbank on the true right bank of the Otaki River, upstream of the SH1 road bridge.
- M B & H F Herrick – taking groundwater from two irrigation bores at Taumata Island, Carterton. The application was declined by a Greater Wellington hearing committee.
- Waiwhetu Stream (Greater Wellington Flood Protection) – discharge of the herbicide diquat to control aquatic weed growth.

Limited notified

- Te Waka Water Co Ltd – abstraction of ground water to supply water to six properties on Te Waka Road, Otaki.
- Kaitawa Crematorium Ltd – discharge to air from the crematorium in the Waikanae Cemetery, Ngarara Road, Waikanae.
- Skip-E-Bins Ltd – discharge of contaminants to air from the refuse transfer station at Kapuni Grove, Porirua.
- The French Village (K P & S M Shaw) – diversion of water for electricity generation in the Mangatarere Stream, Carterton.
- Lowry Bay flood protection (Hutt City Council) – creation of a new stream channel with increased flood carrying capacity.

Seven pre-hearing meetings were held in relation to these 12 suites of applications. Six (or 50%) of these resulted in an agreed outcome meaning a hearing was not necessary. Only two formal hearings were held for limited notified applications.

Hearings were heard by either a committee of councillors or a panel comprising councillors and independent commissioners.

Types of resource consents processed in 2007/08

Figure 1 shows that over half of the consents processed in 2007/08 were for land use activities, and water use comprised about a fifth of all permits processed.

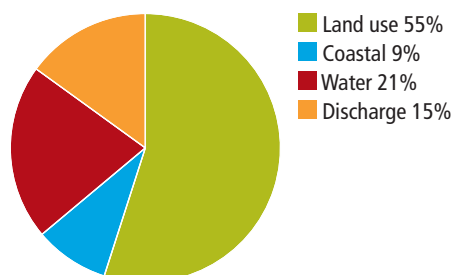


Figure 1: Resource consents issued in 2007/08, by consent type

Trends

As Table 2 shows, the distribution of resource consents according to consent type has remained relatively unchanged since 2005/06, although the proportion of discharge consents has decreased over this time.

Type of resource consent	LAND USE	COASTAL	WATER	DISCHARGE	TOTAL
TOTAL NO. IN 2007/08	386 (55%)	64 (9%)	147 (21%)	106 (15%)	703
TOTAL NO. IN 2006/07	301 (47%)	69 (11%)	158 (25%)	109 (17%)	637
TOTAL NO. IN 2005/06	361 (52%)	58 (8%)	120 (17%)	158 (23%)	697

Table 2: Resource consents processed since 2005/06, by type

Appeals

Decisions relating to 13 applications (representing four suites of applications) were appealed to the Environment Court. Appeals relating to the following proposals are still to be heard.

- WCC – new resource consents for the continued operation of the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant (Karori) and Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant were granted but WCC appealed the Hearing Commissioners' decision regarding the duration of consents and conditions. Other (s274) parties have also appealed the decisions.
- Capital Wharf Ltd & Wellington Waterfront Ltd – the decision to grant consent to redevelop the Overseas Passenger Terminal building and strengthen the Clyde Quay Wharf has been appealed by Waterfront Watch and other (s274) parties.
- Herrick's – the applicant appealed the Greater Wellington hearing committee's decision to decline a groundwater take in the middle Ruamahanga groundwater zone near Taumata Lagoon. An alternative water supply has since been secured by the applicant and the appeal withdrawn.

Appeals resolved during the 2007/08 financial year:

- A E & S W Benton (Wainawhenua Farm) – the Environment Court overturned GW's decision to decline an application to take groundwater from the Kahutara sub aquifers of the Wairarapa Valley groundwater zone following an agreed consent order between the Council, appellant, and other (s274) parties.

- Prema Investments Ltd – applications for the discharge to land of treated domestic wastewater, Whangaimoana Settlement, Martinborough were granted by GW and initially appealed by the applicant, but proceedings were subsequently withdrawn.
- Waterfront Investments Ltd (Hilton Hotel) – the Environment Court overturned GW's decision to grant applications relating to the construction of a Hilton Hotel on the Outer-T at Queen's Wharf.
- Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust – the Environment Court overturned the joint decision of GW and WCC to grant resource consents for the construction and operation of a Marine Education Centre on Wellington's South Coast.
- Scadden's stopbank (Greater Wellington Flood Protection) – an adjacent landowner appealed an Environment Court decision to the High Court on a proposed stopbank relocation on the Ruamahanga River floodplain. Proceedings were withdrawn following extensive negotiations.

Non-notified applications

Significant non-notified applications processed during the year include:

- Neptune Power Ltd – to place and use a prototype tidal energy-generation turbine in the Cook Strait.
- Department of Conservation – to trial the use of hydrochloric acid in the Kaiwharawhara Stream within the Karori Sanctuary (to lower the stream pH and facilitate the removal of brown trout and allow native fish to recolonise the headwaters of the stream).
- Greater Wellington Flood Protection Department – change of consent conditions relating to the amount of gravel extracted from the Ruamahanga Catchment's rivers and streams.
- Wellington Water Management Limited (Capacity), on behalf of Wellington City Council, Infrastructure Planning Department – to continue discharging urban stormwater from the existing reticulated WCC stormwater system to the coastal marine area via the Tory Street Culvert Outfall (to collect data on the stormwater discharge and its potential effects).

More information

For more information on resource consents processed by Greater Wellington, the resource consent process, or about which activities may require consent, please contact the Environment Helpdesk on 04 802 0355 or the Wairarapa office on 06 378 2484.

For more information on Greater Wellington's environmental regulation activities please visit our website at www.gw.govt.nz