Northland REGIONAL COUNCIL

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESOURCE CONSENT

CARRY OUT WORKS IN THE BEDS OR BANKS OF A WATER BODY

(EXCLUDING DAMS OR WEIRS)

When submitting your application to the Northland Regional Council "the council" for a resource consent to carry out works in the bed and/or margin of a water body, you need to ensure that sufficient information is supplied in support of your application.

The council has specific forms to help you supply the required information. When applying to carry out works in the bed of a water body (excluding dams or weirs), please ensure all the relevant questions in AEE 5 are answered fully. Supplying this information will enable council staff to adequately assess your application in terms of the Resource Management Act 1991, and any relevant resource management plans.

If all the necessary information is not supplied with the application then the council may return your application or request further information (pursuant to section 92 of the Resource Management Act 1991), and this will lead to delays in the processing of your application.

If the environmental effects of the proposed works are minor, then the council is likely to process your application on a non-notified basis provided written approvals are gained from all parties that may be affected by the works. Details of the consultation required are outlined later in this document.

If you are unable to supply the necessary written approvals from the affected parties, or if the effects of the works are more than minor, then the council must publicly notify the application. This can result in significant delays in the processing of your application and additional processing costs.

If you have any doubts as to who you need to provide written approvals from, or what information should be supplied with your application, then you should contact the council to discuss the matter.

The following information relates to the questions asked in AEE 5 and is provided to assist you with answering the questions.

A – Description of the Proposed Activity

Questions A.1

Tick the appropriate box for the type of works proposed. If the works are associated with the construction of a dam or weir AEE 4 is to be used.

Question A.2

The name of the water body can be obtained from 1:50,000 topographical maps of your area. Where the water body has no name on this map, the name of the downstream water body into which the water flows should be provided.

Where you are unsure of its name, please leave this space blank.

Question A.3

Please supply the total area affected by the works, such as for gravel extraction. In some cases the works may extend some distance along the streambed, in which case question **A.4** may be of more relevance.

Question A.4

This question is applicable to activities such as drainage and other river management works, e.g. willow removal.

Questions A.5 & A6

Where known, a description of the method of carrying out the works, including the type of machinery to be used should be provided, together with the name of the proposed contractor.

Question A.7 & A.8

Start and completion dates will be dependent upon a number of factors including weather, availability of contractors, financial matters and consent timing. A best estimate should be provided where this is known, along with the length of time required for completion of the project.

Should a resource consent be issued, you will be required at that time to provide more accurate details on the timing of construction activities.

Question A.9

It is desirable that works should be carried out on ‘dry‘ portions of the bed, however, in some situations (e.g. drainage) the type of works means that the use of machinery in areas covered by water is unavoidable.

Question A.10

In some cases, such as for stream crossings, temporary crossings may be installed, usually for a period of up to several months, and then removed on completion of other works.

Question A.11

The placement of soil and debris on a flood plain has the potential to interfere with natural flood flows, and may divert waters onto other properties creating adverse effects, or be carried downstream during storm events. If earthworks are for a stopbank to divert floodwaters this needs to be specified in this question. This should be identified by ticking the appropriate box in **A.1**.

Question A.12

In the case of structures, provide the dimensions of the proposed structures. For culverts, overland flow pathways need to be provided to accommodate flood flows in excess of the capacity of the culvert. The construction of the structure may involve the use of one or more materials and these should all be specified.

B – Site Details

Question B.1

The application form provides a guideline of the type of map(s) required to enable council staff to readily locate the site and adequately assess the overall project. It is important that you supply a map showing the location of the works, the affected area of the streambed and property boundaries. Aerial photographs and/or legal property maps are recommended. The maps should also show the direction of north and be drawn to scale.

Question B.2

Plans of any proposed structures are also required. For complex works such as for culverts, bridges, and other structures, engineer designed plans may be required. The dimensions of the proposed structure should be provided in metres, and accompanied by cross-sectional views.

It is important that any culvert placed on the bed of a stream does not create a drop at the downstream end, otherwise this may limit the upstream and downstream movement of some fish species.

Piles in the bed of a water body may create obstructions to the free flow of water, and trap debris during flood events.

Question B.3

The riparian vegetation is the vegetation which is located on the land beside the water body, generally within 10–20 metres of the bank. For wetland areas please indicate the dominant type of vegetation present (e.g. flax, raupo, rushes).

Question B.4

Catchment area can be determined from topographical maps or general aerial photographs or other more detailed survey data.

Question B.5

You should tick the box that corresponds to the type of water body from which you are proposing to carry out works in or near, and answer all the questions below that box.

C – Assessment of Effects on the Environment

In this section you need to consider what effects your proposed works will have on the environment. For the purposes of this section, you need to consider the effects of your proposal under the "*worst case scenario*".

Please note the word *"environment"* includes any other water body, downstream water users, adjacent landowners and local iwi. The information below will help you answer the questions of this section.

Question C.1

You need to consider whether your proposed works will have any effect on adjacent property and/or downstream water users. This may include the effects of land movement or subsidence undermining or discharging onto adjacent property, windblown dust, or sediment discharges affecting downstream water users.

If written approvals are obtained from all parties that may be affected by the earthworks and the effects of your proposed earthworks are minor, then the council is likely to process your application without public notification.

Question C.2

Tick the boxes that correspond to the parties with whom you have consulted regarding your proposal. The council can advise you of those parties considered to be "affected" and can also supply you with a list of appropriate iwi contacts.

Question C.3

The items listed in this question are those that are commonly affected by works in the beds or margins of water bodies. You need to consider if any of these are present in the vicinity of the proposed works and if they are, then you will need to discuss how the proposed works will affect them.

Question C.4

One of the common effects of works in the beds or margins of water bodies is sediment or silt entering the water bodies. This effect can be mitigated by sediment retention and control measures.

Question C.5

Erosion control measures generally involve solid rock, timber or concrete protection works to protect specific structures from failure, or may involve the planting of suitable plants along the banks. Please check with council staff that any works you propose are likely to be effective, and that any species of plants chosen are suitable for your site.

Question C.6

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires applicants to consider "alternatives" and discuss why they have made that choice. Alternatives may include different sites, methods of construction or construction material.

Question C.7

There are a number of possible "positive" effects that works can provide. These can include economic benefits, improvements to the channel capacity, and a reduction in the number of flood events overtopping other properties.

Question C.8

The amount of monitoring likely to be required will depend upon the type of works being carried out and the potential for adverse effects.

If you have any queries relating to information requirements, please contact the Northland Regional Council.

Northland Regional Council offices:				
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