

Fast-track consenting: lodging a consent application

The COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Act) creates a fast-track process to fast-track projects aimed at stimulating the economy. Find out how to lodge a resource consent application with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

You can lodge a resource consent application for listed or referred projects under the Act.

- Listed projects are those in Schedule 2 of the Act and an application can be made directly to the EPA.
- Referred projects must meet eligibility criteria and be referred by the Minister for the Environment through an Order in Council before an application can be made to the EPA.

Completing an application form

The EPA has approved forms for consent applications.

Make sure your application form is correct and complete. In cases where a project involves a combination of resource consents and a notice of requirement, use two application forms. If you are also applying for a certificate of compliance under the Act then this must be included with your application.

We recommend you contact the EPA before lodging an application. EPA staff can also assist you if you have any queries about application forms, or lodging an application.

You can phone 0800 080 065 or email fasttrack@epa.govt.nz

Download an application form from the EPA website: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/making-an-application/>

Information to include in a resource consent application

The information required in an application is set out in clause 9 of Schedule 6 to the Act and includes:

- a description of the proposed activity and site, and a map of the site
- information about owners and occupiers of the project site and adjacent land
- a description of any other activities that are part of the project and which relate to the application, and any other resource consents, notices of requirement, or alterations to designations which relate to the application.
- an assessment against Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and against the purpose of the Act, and the relevant standards, policy statements and plans.
- information about any Treaty of Waitangi settlements that apply in the project area
- an assessment of the activity's effects on the environment
- a cultural impact assessment prepared by or on behalf of the relevant iwi authority (or statement from the relevant iwi authority of the reasons why an assessment is not being provided)
- proposed conditions for resource consents or notices of requirement
- If a permitted activity is part of the proposal, a description that shows all standards or conditions are complied with

- confirmation that the application complies with the requirements in cl 3(1) of Schedule 6 to the Act

There are additional information requirements for subdivision and reclamation.

This information must be provided in sufficient detail to correspond to the scale and significance of the effects that the activity is anticipated to have on the environment.

If you don't provide all the required information, or there is not sufficient detail, it will be returned to you.

For referred projects, additional information listed in the referral order may be required.

The EPA assesses whether the application complies with the information requirements of the Act

The EPA has five working days to assess the application against the information requirements in the Act. If it meets these requirements, the EPA will provide the application to the panel that has been appointed to determine the application.

If the application does not meet the information requirements, the EPA must return it to the person who lodged it, with written reasons for the EPA's determination.

If the application is lodged again with the EPA, it is treated as a new application, and the five working day timeframe begins again.

Consideration by the expert consenting panel

If your application meets the information requirements, the EPA provides it to the expert consenting panel for consideration. The panel, with the support of the EPA, then progresses the application through the next stages of the fast-track consenting process leading to a decision in approximately 40 working days.

Get in touch

If you have a question about fast-track consenting, please phone 0800 080 065 or email us on fasttrack@epa.govt.nz

Read more about the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 at www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/act-to-fast-track-projects

Read more about the listed projects, expert consenting panels and the EPA's role at <https://www.epa.govt.nz/fast-track-consenting/about/>