

ARF019 Resource Consents

Risk Status Progress Report for August 2022

Prepared 08/08/2022

Description of risk and impact

Over the past five years, Council has received an increasing number of applications for resource consents. The number of applications received is continuing to rise driven by the release of the Proposed District Plan (PDP), environmental legislative changes, the needs of the critical housing market and the influx of new residents to the Far North.

Processing of resource consents is impacted by insufficient FTEs, dwindling consultant availability combined with a high market demand for planners resulting in significant numbers of vacancies within the Team.

Because of Unidentified increase or decrease of requirement for environmental consents, monitoring and licensing, driven by user demand, and new environment due to effects of COVID-19 pandemic, new proposed District Plan and RMA Reform **there is a chance that** FNDC do not have the flexibility to increase/decrease resources to meet the demand, **leading to** poor legislative performance and siege mentality. We do not meet our statutory obligations and/or staff loss.

The risk has been analysed as an organisational risk in the Operational/Financial category with a high impact score of 41 and a probability of "will happen".

Existing Treatments - What has been done so far?

Since October 2020 District Services have flagged that this is an emerging risk. Despite analysis and treatment of this risk by District Services (including Vision 20/20, IT systems enhancements) the risk trend is increasing and is impacting on our ability to meet statutory timelines.

The Environmental Services team have implemented a delivery plan (April 2022) to resolve the backlog of resource consent applications and to ensure that the Resource Consents Team achieves statutory timeframes under the Resource Management Act 1991. The plan recommends:

Treatment	Progress to plan
Offer remote working option	In place Currently have remote worker in Dunedin. New fixed term Intermediate to work from Auckland.
Pay Market allowance	From 1 July 2022, this has been applied to all Team Leader, Senior Resource Planner and Intermediate Planner roles as well as Senior Resource Consent Engineer role.
Create additional fixed term and permanent roles: 1 X Planning Support Officer 1 X Resource Planner 1 X Intermediate planner 1 X Senior Planner 2 X Senior Resource Consents Engineer 1 X Principal Planner	Additional fixed term (2 year) roles created: 2 fixed term Intermediate Planners 2 fixed term Senior Planners 2 fixed term Planning Technical Assistant 2 Senior Resource Consent Engineer No additional permanent roles have been created.

Treatment	Progress to plan
Hire an additional five staff on fixed term: 1 X Planning Technician 2 X Intermediate planner 2 X Senior Planner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate planner starting 3 October 2022 Fixed term intermediate planner starting 5 September 2022 Fixed term Technical Planning Assistant started 8 August 2022
Engage additional consultants	In July two additional Consultants have been contracted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geologix Consulting Engineers Limited Studio Civil Limited
Restructure department Establish: 1 X new role Manager Resource Consents 3 X new team leaders (includes planning support / RC engineering)	No progress to restructure, this will be within realignment project.
Analyse funding model	
Investigate shared resourcing with Whangarei District Council	WDC have provided 5 hours per week to complete s88 checks with no cost during July
Templates to support processing of resource consents against the proposed district plan.	Templates available Training to use completed 4Sight have completed training, templates and practice notes to the RC Processing team, Monitoring Officers and PIM Officers in July

Where are the gaps? / what more could we be doing?

For the month July 2022

- 106 applications were received. This is the highest number of applications received in a month when compared to the last five years, exceeding the previous record set in May 2022 by three applications.
- 15.5% applications were processed within statutory timeframes. This is up from 12.2% June 2022 and 10.7% May 2022
- \$45,633.89 Discounts applied, total discounts for the FY22/23 = \$45,633.89. Total discounts for FY21/22 = \$153,810.98.

At the end of July 2022 192 resource consent applications were unallocated

The impact and likelihood of this risk has increased due to the increasing volume of consents waiting for allocation and for an engineering review.

Inherent Risk:	Trend of risk rating	Residual Risk:	Accountable:	CEO	Date raised:	Oct 2020	Report frequency:
	Increase		Responsible:	GM DS	Date accepted:	23/06/2022	3 monthly