

RMA Process

Resource Management Act 1991

What approvals will Waipa Networks seek to consent a transmission line?

Waipa Networks must seek approvals under the Resource Management Act (RMA) to construct, operate and maintain the proposed transmission line.

Waipa Networks will lodge a Notice of Requirement (NoR) with each of the three Territorial Authorities (district councils) to designate the corridor required for the transmission line. Waipa Networks will also apply for any resource consents required to enable the formation of access tracks for construction activities.

See the Ministry for the Environment *Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act Series* booklet titled, *Getting in on the Act (December 2009)* for more information on this subject.

What is a Notice of Requirement and a designation?

A NoR for a designation is lodged with the Territorial Authority by a requiring authority. The NoR advises the Territorial Authority that land is required for a public work or project by a requiring authority. Once a corridor or site is designated for a particular purpose, a requiring authority can:

- Proceed with work on the designated land, as long as it is consistent with the designated purpose; and
- Restrict any activities on designated land that would prevent or hinder its work

The requiring authority must still comply with any relevant regional plan which can include rules relating to discharges to air, water and land, works in the bed of rivers and lakes, and earthworks. The requiring authority must also comply with the district plan for any works that fall outside the designated purpose or are to be undertaken on land which is not to be designated.

See the Ministry for the Environment *Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act Series* booklet titled, *The Designation Process (December 2009)* for more information on this subject.

Why is Waipa Networks entitled to designate a corridor or site?

Waipa Networks is entitled to lodge a Notice of Requirement with the territorial authority to designate a corridor because it is a 'requiring authority' under the RMA. Network utility operators performing public works can apply to become requiring authorities.

Waipa Networks is a network utility operator and was granted requiring authority status by the Minister for the Environment in early 2013.

See the Ministry for the Environment *Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act Series* booklet titled, *The Designation Process (December 2009)* for more information on this subject.

What is a resource consent application?

A resource consent application must be lodged with the relevant Territorial Authority when a district or regional plan restricts or does not permit a particular activity. A resource consent application can be processed in different ways, depending on the activity, its status under the rules of the plan, and scope and scale of effects.

See the Ministry for the Environment *Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act Series* booklet titled, *Applying for Resource Consent (December 2009)* for more information on this subject.

What process will the notices and applications go through?

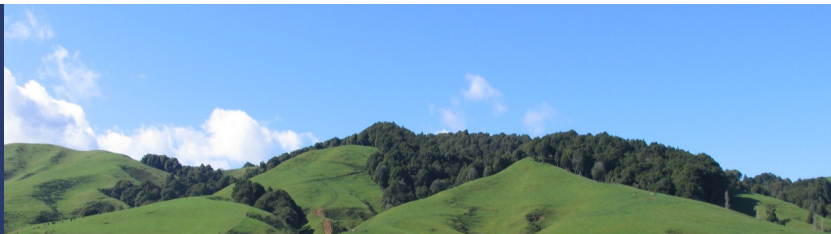
A Notice of Requirement and an application for resource consent could be processed in any one of the following ways:

- processed and heard by the local Territorial Authority
- direct referral to, and consideration by, the Environment Court
- 'Call-in' by the Minister for the Environment with subsequent consideration by a Board of Inquiry or the Environment Court
- direct lodgement with the Environmental Protection Authority, with subsequent consideration by a Board of Inquiry or the Environment Court.

Waipa Networks has considered the options available and concluded that assessment and determination at a local level is preferable so the community and public are provided with meaningful opportunities to engage in the process.

Accordingly, Waipa Networks will lodge the relevant documents with the three local District Councils for processing. It is likely the councils will arrange joint processing involving full public notification.

The application, along with any submissions received, will then be considered at a joint hearing.



See the Ministry for the Environment *Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act Series* booklets titled, *The Designation Process* and *National Level Guidance and Processes* (December 2009) for more information on this subject.

For more information about the terms and processes mentioned in this fact sheet, contact the Ministry for the Environment or visit its website www.mfe.govt.nz

How do property rights and easements fit into the RMA process?

Property right negotiations with landowners for easements is a process not directly related to the considerations and decisions by local authorities under the RMA. Waipa Networks has been negotiating for the last year with affected property owners, and agreement has been reached with the majority of the directly affected landowners. This engagement has assisted Waipa Networks to identify the preferred route for the transmission line, and now is an appropriate time to initiate the required RMA process.

For more information on this, see the Waipa Networks Fact Sheet – Property Rights & Easements.

How do I voice my opinion on the project?

Feedback

Waipa Networks has engaged experts to review the project and its potential or actual effects in terms of noise, ecology and landscape. Their completed assessments will be included in the RMA documents submitted to the councils, and included in the material which is publicly notified.

At this stage the wider community's view about the project is sought along with feedback about any particular issues or impacts so these can be considered and if necessary addressed and/or mitigated.

Waipa Networks seeks feedback from landowners, occupiers, members of the wider public, community and interest groups, businesses and agencies.

For more information about how to comment or provide feedback, contact your Waipa Networks representative or phone Waipa Networks on 07-872-0745.

Submissions

It is likely the three councils will arrange joint processing and full public notification. With public notification a notice will appear in local papers and anybody will be able to lodge a submission on the project by completing a council submission form. The form will ask if you support, oppose or are neutral to the proposal and to provide the reasons for your view. The submitter can also say if they wish to be heard in support of their submission or not. If a submitter requests to be heard, this means they have the option of appearing at the consent authority hearings and stating their views in person on the proposal.

Decisions and Recommendations

Waipa Networks' Notices of Requirement and application for resource consents, along with any submissions the councils receive, will be considered at a RMA hearing. It's likely that the three councils will arrange a joint hearing with a panel of commissioners. After all parties have been heard, the hearing will be adjourned and after due deliberation by the hearing panel it will release its recommendations on the Notices of requirement and decisions on the resource consent applications.

The Ministry for the Environment's website provides more information and details about these RMA processes: refer www.mfe.govt.nz.

**For further information
please phone 07-872-0745**

or email

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