

# What to include in an Assessment of Environmental Effects for a coastal permit

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## ■ Introduction

The sustainable use, development and protection of Auckland's coast are regulated by policies and rules in the Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal (ARP:C), under provisions of the Resource Management Act (1991) (RMA 1991).

You generally need a coastal permit from the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) if you intend to build a structure or carry out an activity within the coastal marine area CMA<sup>1</sup>. To help the ARC decide whether to grant a permit, you need to detail the environmental effects (good and bad) of your proposal in an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE).

This fact sheet tells you what to include in an AEE when you are applying for a coastal permit for an activity or works in Auckland's CMA.



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<sup>1</sup> The coastal marine area includes the foreshore, the seabed, the sea surface and the air above the sea from Mean High Water Springs mark out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit.

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## ■ Why is An Assessment of Environmental Effects needed?

Section 88 of the RMA requires that an AEE be prepared for any application for a coastal permit. The assessment should cover any actual or potential effects that the activity may have on the environment and the ways any adverse effects may be mitigated.

The amount of detail you include in an AEE should correspond with the scale and significance of the actual or potential effects your activity may have on the environment. For example, an application to build structures to reduce erosion along several hundred metres of coast would require more information than one for a short wooden pile jetty.

The matters that should be considered in an AEE are specified in the Fourth Schedule of the RMA, and discussed in detail in Part III (Values) of the ARP:C.

The assessment should be presented in a report form with the appropriate level of technical information included. If an application does not include an adequate assessment of effects it will not be accepted for processing. Contact the ARC before you submit your application on 09 366 2000 and press 1.

## ■ What do I include in an AEE?

As a minimum, the AEE should include consideration of actual and potential effects and ways to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on the following features and values. It should describe:

### ■ **The natural character of the coastal environment, including visual impact on the surrounding area and landscape**

- How natural or modified the surrounding area is
- The existing scenic and visual characteristics, and how your proposal could affect them
- How can you alter the scale, form and look of your proposal to fit better with the surrounding environment?



### **Natural features and ecosystems**

- What natural ecological features occur in the vicinity of your site, and how will your proposal affect them?
- Relevant matters to consider include native vegetation, wildlife habitat, and important natural landforms such as geological exposures of scientific interest
- Consider ecological processes over time, such as seasonal use of the locality by different bird species

### **Cultural heritage or spiritual values**

- Are there historic or archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposal recorded in the ARC Cultural Heritage Inventory or the heritage schedules in the ARP:C?
- What about the importance of the place to the community including Tāngata Whenua?

### **Impact on public access (including navigation) to, from and along the CMA**

- Will members of the public be able to continue to gain pedestrian access to, from and along the CMA?
- Will the proposal affect navigation and safety?
- Can you minimise navigation effects with lighting and marker buoys?

### **Effects on the use of the area**

- What effect will your proposal have on existing and potential community use, or on social and economic values of the site?

### **Consultation and affected parties**

- Identify parties that may be adversely affected by your proposal and inform them of your plans e.g. adjacent property owners/occupiers, Tāngata Whenua, regulatory agencies, local community groups
- Have the parties that may/will be adversely affected by your proposal provided you with written approvals?

## Construction methodology

- Are there health and safety issues with the methods of construction to be used e.g. access requirements, site recovery time?

## Mitigation measures

- What measures will be taken to avoid, mitigate or remedy adverse effects on the environment?
- What, if any, 'environmental compensation' (off-set mitigation) will be provided?

Include a map that clearly identifies where the site is, how large the proposed work or structure is, and where the effects noted above may occur.

## For more information

Contact the ARC on 09 366 2000 and press 1 for information and advice on: The suitability of your plans for the location

- What resource consents you require from us
- The supporting information and consultation you'll need to include with your application

A Guide to preparing a basic Assessment of Environmental Effects is available at:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/ae-guide-aug06/index.html> The ARC has a range of fact sheets that relate to the use of the region's coastline. Copies are available online at [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz) or upon request. Topics include:

- Moorings
- Jetties, Ramps and Other Structures
- Public Access to Auckland's Coast
- Managing Coastal Erosion
- Our Coast and Sea, Who do I Contact?
- So you want to Carry out Works in the Coastal Marine Area.

### How do I contact the ARC?

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