

NEW INITIATIVE (L)

Project title: Compliance monitoring

Background: This proposal seeks additional resources to monitor resource consent approvals. The increased number and complexity of consent conditions necessitates these additional resources.

It is recommended that the funding be included in the draft annual plan.

1. The Proposal

This initiative aims to heighten the level of compliance monitoring of resource consent conditions.

2. Proposal Costs

Project Component	Operating expenses \$000									
	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
<i>Salary and Corporate</i>	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
<i>Income</i>	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
<i>Total</i>	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)

3. Project Outline

The position of monitoring officer is responsible for checking development sites that have resource consent(s) in order to ensure that such developments proceed in accordance with conditions of consent. Ancillary tasks also include tracking when relevant site works start, organising for the review of documents required by consent conditions, and invoicing for monitoring inspections.

An important function of the CME business unit is also to provide early advice on resource consent approvals to ensure that conditions of consent, designed to minimise the (adverse) effects of approved developments on the natural and built environment, are fully complied with – thereby reducing issues “down the track”, which can be more litigious and expensive in terms of officer time and legal costs.

Since Council created the proactive monitoring position in 2003, the number of outstanding approved resource consents (needing monitoring) has grown in cumulative terms, particularly given that consent holders now have 5 years (up from 2 a few years ago) in which to action their approvals.

Additionally, over time, there has been a requirement for more rigorous assessment of resource consent applications which have increased in complexity in line with enhanced District Plan rules (eg. there is greater recourse nowadays to traffic and construction management plans - and sediment control plans that are submitted to be assessed).

There is also greater scrutiny/expectations from the community/affected parties who don't hesitate to raise issues of non compliance in public forums where the issue is often further debated (at times without all the necessary facts).

The number and detail of approvals to be monitored by the CME business unit has therefore increased in quantity and complexity and the 1xFTE that currently exists is insufficient to maintain the current and recommended level of service

The CME business unit has no capacity to prioritise its work within existing resources and considers the units inability to monitor consents to the degree considered appropriate a risk to Council's reputation.

4. Conclusion

It is recommended that the new position be agreed and funded through an increase in fees.