

MARCH 2022

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Which applications do the discount regulations apply to?

The Council is required to apply the provisions of the Resource Management (Discount on Administrative Charges) Regulations 2010 (the Regulations) on all applications which are not decided within the timeframes set by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

The Regulations apply to all notified, limited notified and non-notified applications lodged under section 88 of the RMA (new applications for resource consent) and applications lodged under section 127 of the RMA (change or cancellation of conditions).

The Council must provide the discount whenever the relevant timeframes for processing an application are exceeded. The applicant does not need to apply for the discount to be provided.

The discount is 1% of the total charges for each working day the application is not processed after the relevant statutory timeframe. The discount is up to a maximum of 50 working days or 50%.

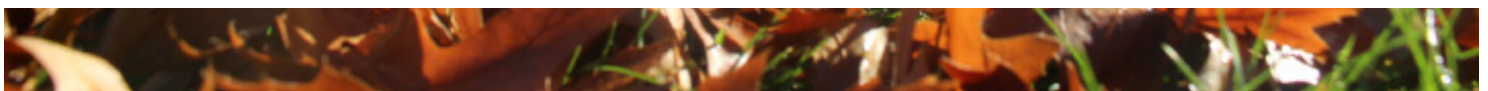
The discount only applies to administrative charges under section 36 of the RMA. These are the Council

charges for receiving, processing and making a recommendation or decision on an application.

The Regulations do not apply to:

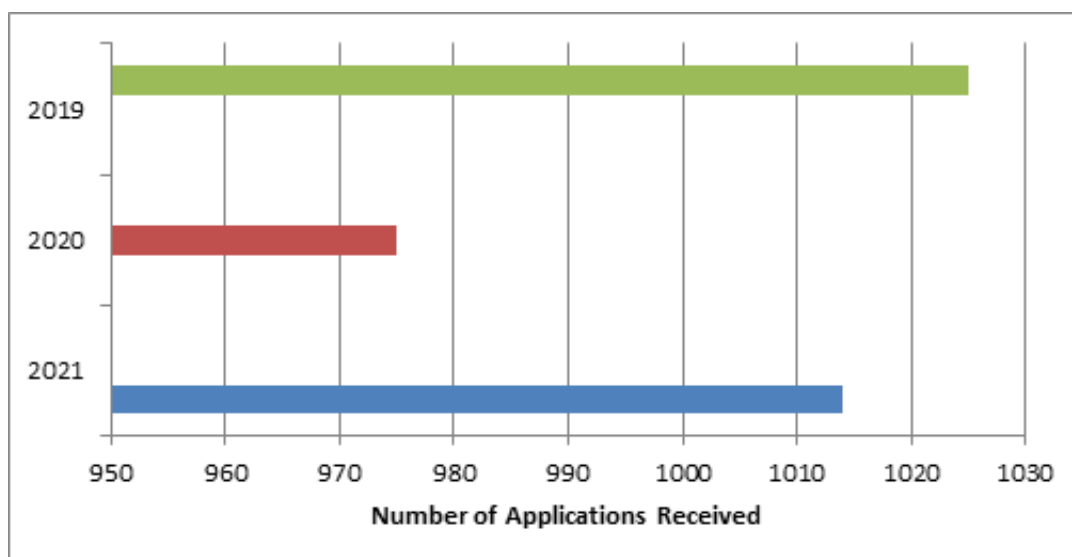
- Applications to Extend the Lapse period under section 125.
- Reviews under section 128.
- Certificates of Compliance under section 139.
- Existing Use Certificates under section 139A.
- Designations, Heritage Protection Orders or Notices of Requirements under Part 8.
- Outline Plans under section 176A.
- Water Conservation Orders under Part 9.
- Survey Plans under section 223.
- Completion Certificates under section 224.
- Objections to Council Decision under section 357A.

The Regulations also do not apply to administrative charges for development contributions, monitoring fees and charges, subdivision certifications and any other charges that are not set under the RMA.

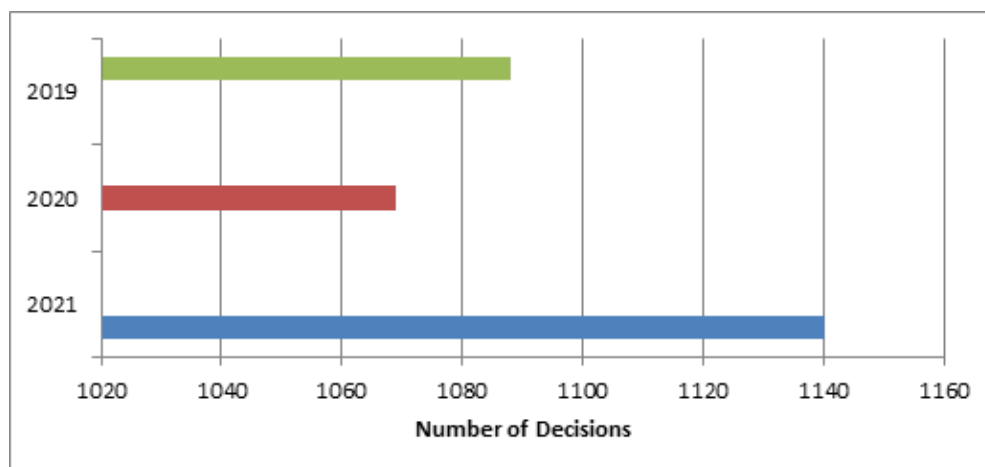


What happened in 2021?

Despite the continued impacted of Covid-19 the 2021 calendar year was relatively busy for the Resource Consent Team. Overall the number of applications received was slightly more than 2020 and slightly less than 2019. During the 2021 calendar year Council received 1014 applications. Of that total, 891 were new applications for resource consent. Council also received 114 applications for variations to resource consent conditions under section 127, 8 extensions to lapse date under section 125 and 1 objection to conditions under section 357. In the same period in 2020 Council received 975 applications and in 2019 Council received 1025 applications.



In the 2021 calendar year Council issued more decisions than the previous two years with 1,140 decisions. Of that total, 999 were for new applications for resource consent. Council also issued 129 section 127 decisions (variations to resource consent conditions); 11 section 125 (extension to lapse date) and 1 objection to conditions under section 357. In the same period in 2020 Council issued 1069 decisions and 2019 Council issued 1088 decisions.



Staff Profiles



Beth Bovey

Beth has come to the Council from Timberlink NZ Ltd. Her role there was that of Office Manager with a particular focus on Export Documentation and Accounts. Beth's role at Council is that of Resource Management Administration Officer. She has a grown family who all live in Blenheim and her main interests are reading, movies and caravanning.



Simon Petrie

Simon is from Blenheim but has been in Otago (Dunedin) for some six years. He has a background/interest in science and environmental areas and has completed a BSc in Chemistry and Geography and an MSc in Geography. Simon's masters gave him the opportunity to travel to the Maldives (twice!) Simon has a keen interest in sports and outdoor recreation including ice hockey, volleyball, tramping and swimming. He enjoys the walks, beaches and swimming spots in Marlborough.

Update on the RM Reform and impact on the MDC Resource Consent Process

- There are three more Ministerial oversight meetings before April.
- Key decisions will be made by April to be drafted and introduced to the House in the third quarter.
- To date over 3,000 submissions have been made to the Select Committee Inquiry on the NBA exposure draft.
- Targeted engagement with local government, hapu/iwi/Maori is planned for February on roles and responsibilities in the system.
- The next opportunity for public engagement will occur in 2022 when the NBA and the SPA are referred to the select committee.
- It has now been accepted by all parties that transitioning to the new system will take some time.
- Marlborough District Council, like other Councils will continue to implement their current Resource Consent systems during the transition phase.
- It is also expected and accepted that existing Plans will continue to apply for an interim period after enactment of the new system.

Where to from here?

November 2021 - February 2022

- Targeted engagement on decision making roles in the RM System.
- Feedback will help shape the NBA and SPA Bills that will be introduced into Parliament in 2022.

2022

- Work continues on remaining NBA and SPA policy.
- NBA and SPA introduced into Parliament in the third quarter.
- Planning to establish and implement the new system underway.

2023 (by the end of the Parliamentary Term)

- NBA and SPA enacted.
- Work on establishing and implementing the new system continues.

Resource Consent Team Business Continuity Plan under traffic light red

The RC Team has adapted to a new way of working under traffic light red. The team is now carefully following the precautions put in place to protect themselves and others, including:

- Wearing a mask when entering the Council offices, leaving their bubble, and when entering any shared areas such as toilet and tearooms.
- When in a meeting with people from other bubbles all attendees wearing masks, zoom meetings are undertaken where possible.
- Maintaining work bubbles and 1 metre separation within their bubbles.
- Regular hand washing.
- Allocated vehicles being used by staff bubbles only and not loaned to other areas.
- Vulnerable or identified staff working from home.
- Staff have also been encouraged to get vaccinated and boosted.
- Offering zoom meeting attendance and remote attendance at hearings in place of in-person attendance.
- Complying with physical distancing and mask requirements during meetings and hearings.
- Receiving digital documentation in place of hard copy.

Delivering our service and maintaining the health and safety of the RC Team is a primary consideration. In the event of high community cases or localised cases the RC Team will review its precautions and additional controls will be implemented to reduce the risk to staff, these may include:

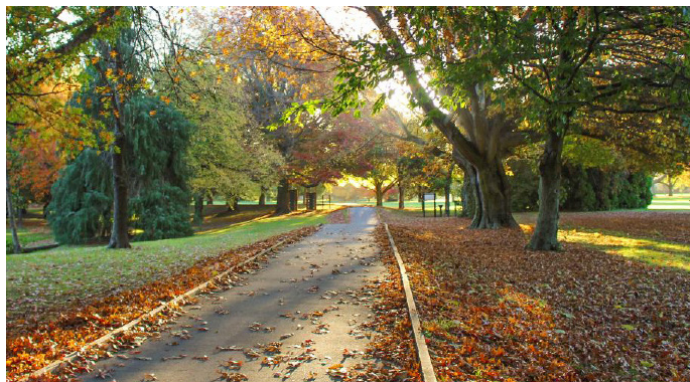


- Rotating of team bubbles in the office to further reduce staff on the floor, on a weekly or split week/day roster between working in the office and working remotely.
- Dedicating reduced staff for work in the office and others for remote working.
- Utilising alternate methods of delivering services to reduce risk to staff and others, or if necessary ceasing high risk activities.

The RC Team are all prepared to isolate and work from home at any time. The Team are ensuring their laptops are updated and that any material they require are with them when they go home each day or kept at home.

We are not only concerned with physical wellness but also emotional wellness and anxiety, and therefore have Council's wellness resources available if any staff need any support.

The RC Team are continuing to deliver functions and services for our community and local businesses under current settings as we are very aware how critical they are to our stakeholders. We appreciate that our stake holders may be under significant strain from this pandemic, financially, from risk, wellness and from staffing shortages. We can assure you that our Business Continuance Plan will enable us to continue delivering our services despite the constraints of moving to the red traffic light setting.



Next Issue out 1 June