Definitions

Amenity Values

means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.

Effects

are the consequences or results of the proposal and they can be positive and negative and cumulative. Common effects include: making noise, cutting down trees, shading and generating traffic.

Environment

means the area (including people) that surrounds the proposal and is likely to be affected by it.

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Whanganui District Council

A guide to Preparing an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE)

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What is an AEE?

An Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) is a statement that details any effects which a proposed activity (e.g. a new building or change of land use) may have on the surrounding environment.

An application for consent is not considered complete if you don't attach an AEE to it, and its not enough to say there are no effects without explaining why.

Why?

As part of your application for a resource consent, the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires that you tell Council about the likely 'effects' that your proposal will have on the environment.

The purpose of an AEE is to make you, the Council and any affected parties aware of the likely effects of the proposed activity. The information is also useful as it can illustrate ways in which any negative effects can be avoided, overcome or reduced.

The effects of a proposed activity are a key consideration when Council decides whether to approve your application. When completed properly, the AEE will help the Council make a decision with minimal cost and delay.

How?

To start preparing an AEE, it is useful to think about the ways in which your proposal may affect anything (properties or people) around it.

If you identify any negative effects, then try and include in your AEE how these could be overcome or how you have reduced them.

Your assessment need not be a long report. In many cases, it will be fairly straightforward. If your proposal is easily understood and the effects are likely to be minor, the assessment can be a simple explanation of what is expected. In the case of larger scale activities, the assessment may need to cover more complex issues and you may need some professional input (e.g. from a private planning consultant).

Your AEE may need to include some or all of the following matters:

- Any ways of avoiding, overcoming or reducing any negative effects identified;

- Any alternatives to the proposal, including alternative locations;

- Identification of those person(s) affected by your proposal and any consultation you have had with them;

- Any effects on the landscape, plants or animals; and

- Any positive effects as well.

What is Council looking for?

The easiest way to do an AEE is to look at why you need a consent in the first place.

For example:
You wish to build too close to the side boundary. This will cause a breach of rule R5(a) the Height Recession Plane rule.

The purpose of the rule is to preserve the amenity, privacy, sunlight of the adjoining properties and to protect the streetscape.

AEE - I have altered the design to ensure it is not visible from the street and have obtained my neighbours consent by removing a window. Therefore the effects are minor.