



**NEW ZEALAND CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY – 2007
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
‘GETTING THE FOUNDATIONS RIGHT’**

**Andrew Hammond - District Planner
Timaru District Council**



Local Council Working in Tandem with Business and the Chamber

Today, I am going to talk to you about two ways where the Council and Business work together in the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) process. These are:

1. The plan and plan preparation process
2. The resource consent process



GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL PLAN AND PLAN PREPARATION PROCESS

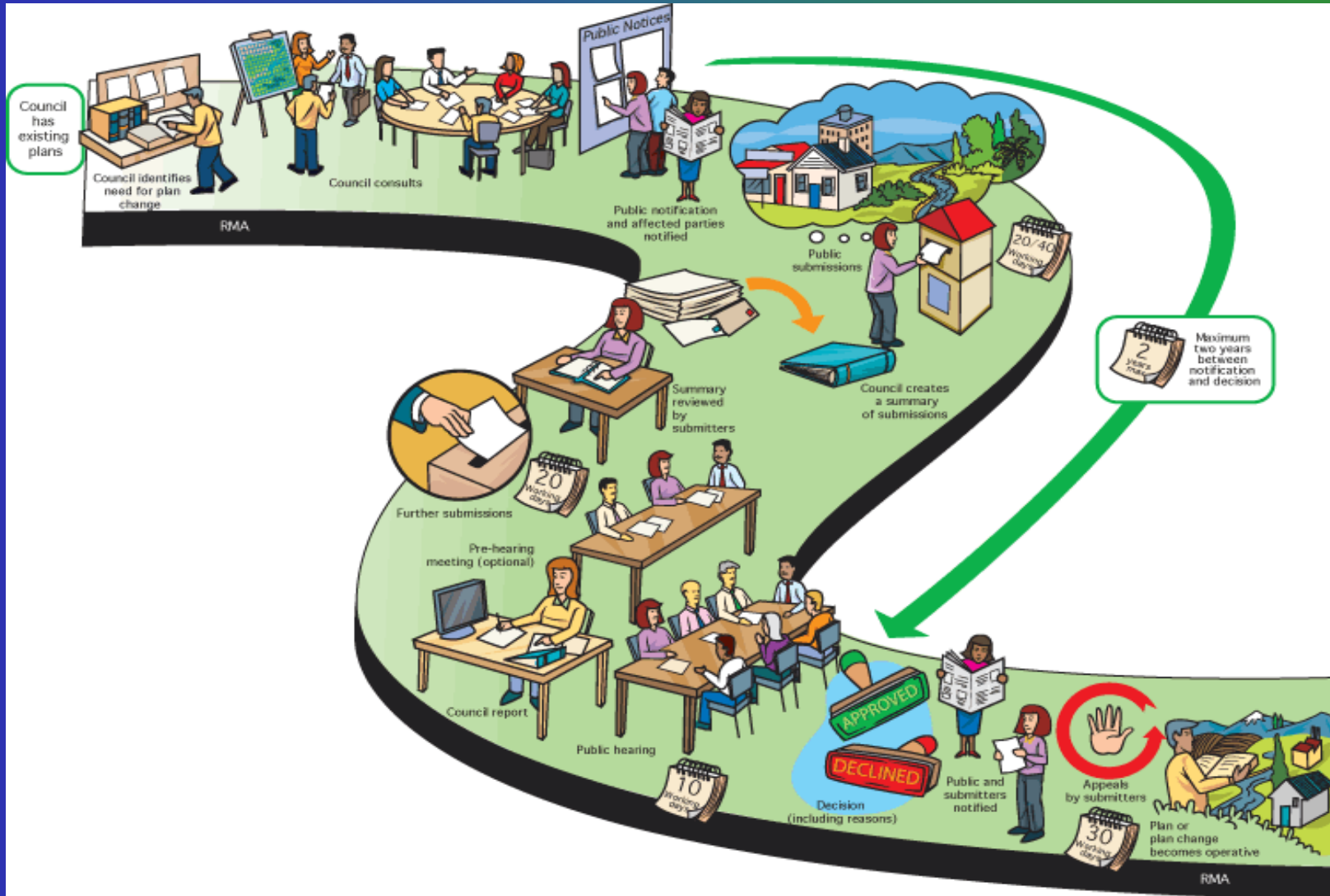
District, city and regional plans are one of the main ways you can get involved in the Resource Management Act (RMA). Councils use regional and district/city plans to set out how they will manage the local environment.

Councils must consult with their communities when they prepare plans, review plans and consider a change to an existing plan or variation to a proposed plan. In addition, members of the community can take a part in the process and have their say on how the local environment should be managed.

In summary, the council plan preparation and plan change (or variation) process is:

1. The council **notifies** a proposed plan or change to an existing city, district or regional plan, or a variation to a plan that is still being developed. It does this by putting a notice in the paper, on their website and/or by sending you information in the mail.
2. You can make a **written submission** to the council supporting or opposing the proposed plan, plan change or variation, or provide information that you think the council should consider in making their decisions.
3. The council prepares a summary of submissions and will let you know where and when you can view the report. After the summary of submissions is produced, you can make a **further submission** that either supports or opposes an original submission (you don't need to have made an original submission to make a further submission).

4. The council may hold a **hearing** if you or another submitter ask to be heard in support of your submission in your written submission. The hearing committee will consider the submissions and hear any evidence that supports them. A **pre-hearing meeting** may also be held to sort out issues before a formal hearing.
5. The council makes a **decision** and tells you the outcome in a letter and in a public notice in the newspaper.
6. You can lodge an **appeal** with the Environment Court within 30 working days if you are unhappy with the decision. You should seek professional advice before doing so. You may be eligible for Environmental Legal Assistance.
7. The proposed plan, plan change or variation becomes **fully operative** after the council has made its decision and all appeals, if there are any, have been resolved.





APPLYING FOR A RESOURCE CONSENT

The RMA requires local councils to ensure effects on the environment are managed in a sustainable way. Councils create plans under the RMA that set out objectives, policies and rules to manage activities that may effect the environment. These plans set out the activities that require a resource consent, and those that are permitted (and don't need a resource consent).

In summary, the process for applying for a resource consent is:

1. You have an **idea...**
2. Talk to the council and check the regional or district plan in your area. The council will tell you whether you need a resource consent for the activity you are proposing, what type of consent you need, and what information you need to provide.

Once you've learned you need to apply for a resource consent you need to start preparing your application.

Stage 1: Preparing your application (information gathering)

3. Get the application forms from your council. You may wish to contract a resource management or planning consultant to help with your information gathering including identifying if resource consent is required, help with any consultation or help in preparing your assessment of environmental effects (AEE).
4. Identify who might be interested in or affected by your proposed activity. You may like to talk to those people about your application to help the process run smoothly and help identify potential effects.
5. Complete an assessment of environmental effects for your proposal.

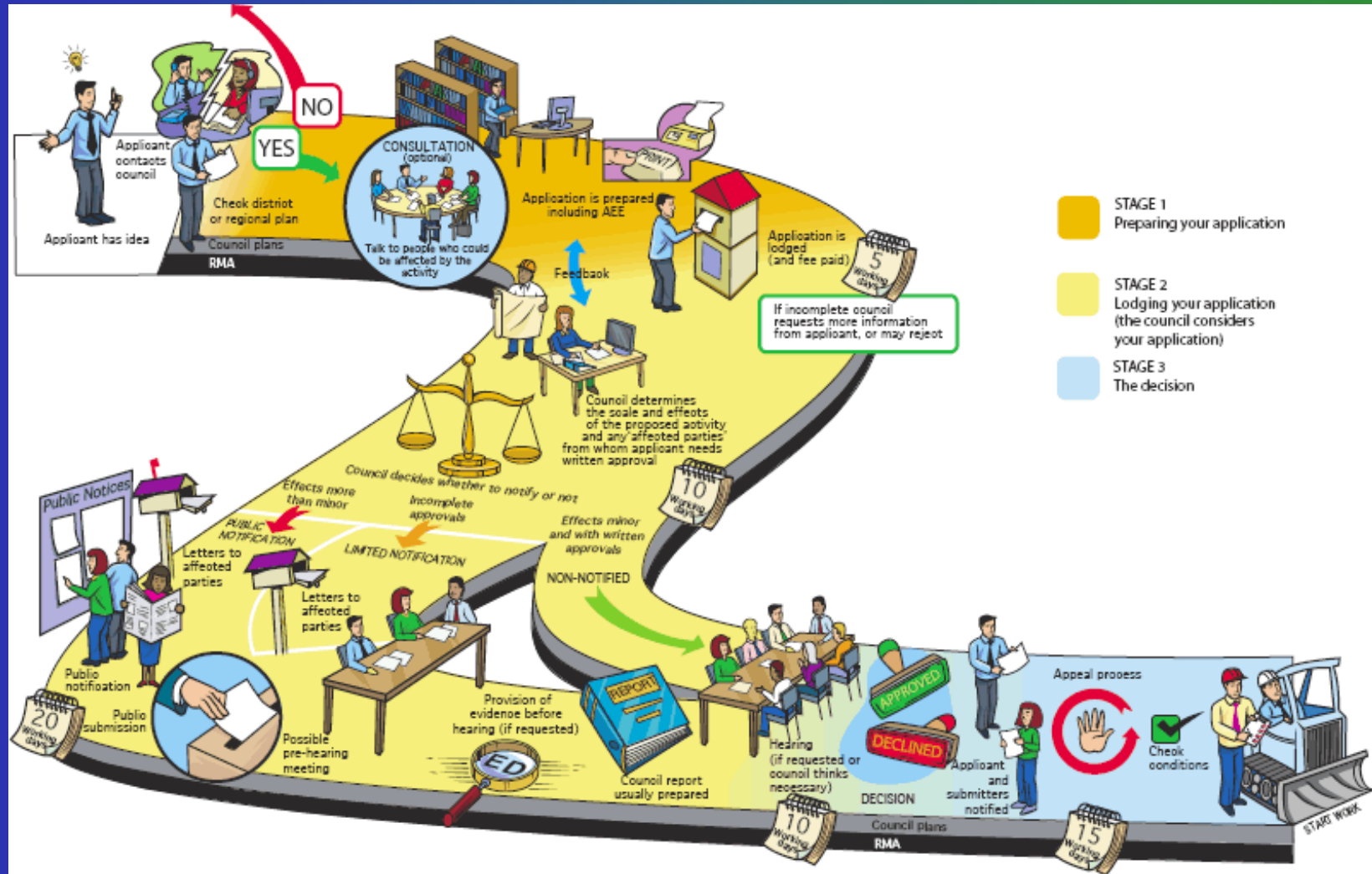
Stage 2: Lodging your application (the council considers your application)

6. The council will check your application is complete and that you have paid your application fee and let you know if anything more is needed.
7. The council determines the scale and effects of the proposed activity and any affected parties. It decides whether the application should be publicly notified, notified only to affected parties (limited notification) or non-notified.
8. If the application is publicly notified then anybody can make a submission on the application.
The council might decide to notify the application only to those persons it considers to be affected (limited notification). Only those persons notified by the council can make a submission on the application in this situation.
9. The council may hold a hearing if you or a submitter requests one. A pre-hearing meeting may also be held to sort out issues before a formal hearing.



Stage 3: The decision (your resource consent is approved or declined)

10. You will get a letter in the mail telling you whether your application has been approved or declined.
11. If the consent is approved, it will often have conditions on the way the activity must be carried out. If the consent is declined, or if you don't like its conditions, you can object to the council or appeal to the Environment Court.
12. You can start work after the 15-day appeals period if no appeals have been lodged, or after any appeals have been settled



Thank you

Any Questions