

POSITION TITLE:	Senior Consents Planner		
GROUP:	Policy & Regulation	SECTION:	Consents
REPORTS TO:	Team Leader Consents		
RESPONSIBLE FOR:	NA		
FAMILY:	TP2	GRADE:	18
DATE REVIEWED:	January 2022		

HBRC STRATEGY

Our Vision:

We want a healthy environment and a resilient and prosperous community.

Our Purpose:

We work with our community to protect and manage the region's precious taonga of rivers, lakes, soils, air, coast and biodiversity for health, wellbeing and connectivity.

Our Values:

- **Partnership and Collaboration:** We work with our community in everything we do
- **Accountability:** We hold ourselves to account to deliver results, be responsive to community expectations, and the best use of ratepayers' funds and assets
- **Transparency:** We report on what we do and the value this delivers for our community
- **Excellence:** We set our sights and expectations high, and never stop striving to do better

Our Focus:

- **Water quality, safety and climate-resilient security** ~ *Te kounga o te wai, te haumarutanga me te mārohirohi ā-āhuarangi o te whakamarutanga.*
- **Climate-smart and sustainable land use** ~ *Kia koi, kia toitū hoki te whakamahinga o te whenua.*
- **Healthy, functioning and climate-smart biodiversity** ~ *kio ora, kia āhe, kia mārohirohi ā-āhuarangi hoki te rerenga rauropi.*
- **Sustainable and climate-resilient services and infrastructure** ~ *kia toitū, kia mārohirohi ā-āhuarangi hoki ngā ratonga me ngā hanganga ā-whare.*

POSITION SUMMARY

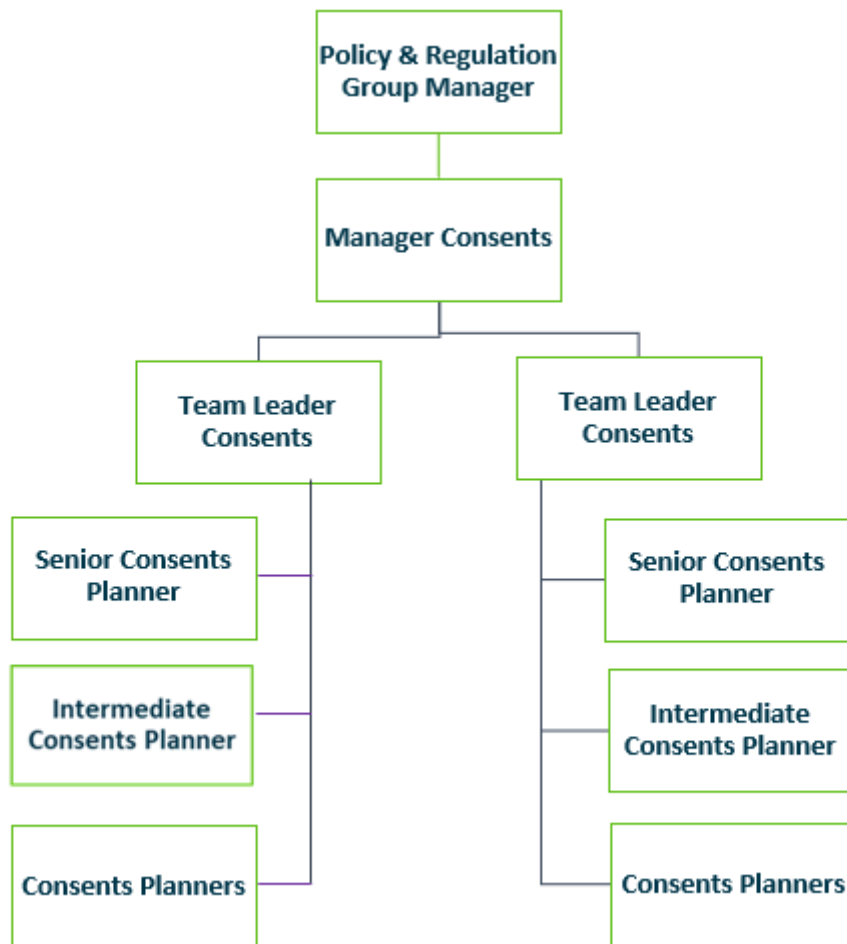
The Senior Consents Planner will coordinate and actively manage complex resource management consent processes. This will involve the co-ordination of work outputs required from a multi disciplinary team of HBRC staff and/or external experts. They will need to ensure that those outputs are fit for purpose for the consent process. The role will also proactively engage and manage relationships with stakeholders throughout the consent process, take responsibility for the processing of resource consent applications within the framework and provisions of relevant legislation and Council protocols. The role will provide robust resource management advice to stakeholders, both internal and external, in regard to consenting matters. The Senior Consents Planner will lead projects, working closely with other members of the Consents team. The role will include supporting the wider team to process group consents and group consent replacements. It will also involve peer review, mentoring and coaching for the planners at lower levels in the team.

GROUP AND TEAM GOALS:

The Consents team provides resource consent services of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) through:

- Providing guidance and advice on resource consenting matters to stakeholders including the community, tangata whenua, resource consent applicants, resource consent holders, interested or affected parties and to HBRC and HBRC staff.
- Establishing and applying procedures for receiving, processing and managing resource consents.
- Assessing resource consent applications in terms of the Resource Management Act (RMA) and relevant National Policies, Standards and Regulations, Regional Plans and policies and reporting, recommending and determining (within the scope of delegations) whether resource consent applications should be approved, approved with conditions or declined.
- Representing HBRC decisions at any objections or appeals.
- Providing consent input to resource management investigations and policy development as and when required.

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT



JOB SPECIFIC ACCOUNTABILITES

- Take responsibility for the processing of resource consents assigned by the Team Leaders.
- Actively lead multi disciplinary teams in assessing consent applications adequacy, nature of effects and mitigation measures.
- Prepare requests for more information.
- Engage with stakeholders and members of the community to explain the resource consent requirements and processes and the rules of the regional plans.
- Work collaboratively with the Consents team as a whole. Be an active and contributing team player to ensure successful delivery of team outputs.

- Provide timely and professional advice to other parts of the organisation, as appropriate.
- Develop and maintain excellent relationships with both staff and external stakeholders
- Be a subject matter expert for resource management legislation, national policy statements, national environmental standards, Hawke’s Bay Regional Plans and other relevant plans and strategies, including Iwi and hapu management plans and Treaty Settlement Agreements as they relate to consents.
- Take the lead and provide significant input into complex consent applications ensuring effective outcomes.
- Resolve disputes when applicants object to decisions and to costs.
- Provide evidence and appear before the Environment Court when consent decisions are appealed.
- Actively contribute to establishing, maintaining and following internal procedures for managing resource consents.
- Ensure correct processes and procedures are adhered to.
- Ensure efficient and timely processing of resource consent applications, evidenced by statutory time frames for processing resource consents, being consistently met. Ensure that all allocated work is accurately completed within accepted timelines and meets expectations.
- Support the Team Leaders with mentoring and coaching of consent planners as required.
- Provide oversight, support and peer review of consent projects and reports undertaken by other consent planners including external contractors.
- Attend and present at public/community and Council meetings as required in support of consent related processes or projects.
- Demonstrate an understanding and ability to apply Quality Management practices.
- Contribute to the Quality Management System as part of everyday business practice, including developing, reviewing and improving business processes, maintaining a strong customer focus and a commitment to the continuous improvement program.
- Effectively participate in project teams across the Policy and Regulation group, the wider organisation or externally as and when required.
- Actively participate in all Consents section activities.
- Ensure that reports (s.42A etc.) and technical analysis documentation are prepared to a high standard and within timeframes as requested by Manager or the Team Leader.
- Engage external experts and ensure that contracts for external experts are managed in accordance with HBRC processes.
- Approve the issue of non-notified resource consent decisions as per delegations.

FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Internal

- Group Managers
- Team members
- Integrated Catchment Management Staff
- Asset Management Staff
- Maori Partnerships
- Policy and Regulation Staff

External

- Consultants and contractors
- Government agencies and departments
- Local authorities
- Technical and legal professionals
- Iwi and other community groups
- Resource consent holders and applicants
- Members of our community

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Fostering good working relationships is fundamental to the successful achievement of strategic goals for HBRC. We know we can’t achieve change without the people (our community) outside our business. As expressed under our purpose statement, “working with our community” is at the heart of everything we do. This is particularly relevant to our relations with Tāngata Whenua in terms of co-governance and co-management. Successful relationships involve building trust. Which in turn enables us to support each other to respond to new challenges as they arise.

This means:

- Professional attitude is projected at all times in dealing with external contacts.
- Information is accurate and is provided in a timely manner.
- Outcomes that are fair and clearly understood by both parties are achieved
- Customers are satisfied with responses to written or verbal requests for information.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

All Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) staff are expected to actively and enthusiastically promote the concept of continuous improvement in their work for HBRC. This means:

- Maintaining a positive overall attitude in the workplace, including promoting HBRC in a positive manner, as assessed by your peers and Manager
- Taking part in training opportunities provided by HBRC with an open mind, as assessed by pre and post training meetings with your Manager/Team leaders.
- Practicing the skills provided in training offered by HBRC, as assessed by regular feedback meetings with your Manager.
- Showing a strong team commitment, as indicated by peer feedback and your Manager's assessment.
- Practicing the concept of continuous improvement by showing initiative with new ideas and positively acknowledging other ideas.
- Giving honest and open feedback as and when required, aiming to constructively deal with all issues, as assessed by regular feedback meetings with your Manager.
- Deliver on project outcomes: on time and on budget.
- Displaying sound judgment and making responsible decisions.
- Working to high quality standards and where applicable contributes to maintenance of ISO 9001:2015 accreditation of the Quality Management System.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All staff are expected to follow established health and safety procedures while working for HBRC, and in accordance with policies developed by HBRC. This means:

- Complying with and adhering to HBRC's accepted standards and procedures.
- Where appropriate, taking responsibility for workplace hazards/risks you identify and communicated to management.
- Undertaking regular reviews of workplace risks/hazards that are present in your work.
- When, and if, necessary, participate in the investigation of accidents/incidents according to HBRC procedures.
- Undertaking appropriate and effective staff training when required or necessary.
- Promoting a healthy and safe workplace.
- Actively supporting health and safety initiatives.
- Comply with any rehabilitation plan designed with you for a return to work after an accident.
- Comply with the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

When a Civil Defence event happens, you may be required to assist with carrying out the Council's Civil Defence responsibilities after providing required support for your family and dependants. All HBRC staff are expected to undertake such Emergency Management functions as are determined appropriate to meet HBRC's role and function in this area. This means:

- Undertaking such a role as is allocated for emergency management requirements.
- Participating in such exercises as are required to maintain a state of preparedness in HBRC.
- Responding to such requests to assume an emergency management role as are required by events.
- Understanding the contents of the relevant section of the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and its implications for your role.

- Where the requirements of the role require it, review the relevance of the BCP for your team, section or Group on a regular basis.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Minimum Qualifications and Experience required

- Relevant Bachelor's degree or equivalent tertiary qualification in resource management, public policy or related field.
- Minimum of 7+ years of experience in a similar role/relevant industry
- In-depth knowledge of the Resource Management legislation.
- Excellent understanding of the consents process.
- A clear understanding of cultural issues in resource management.
- Proven experience in consent processing and managing complex resource management issues and processes.
- Proven facilitation experience
- Valid driver's licence required.

Knowledge

The following indicates what would typically be expected for this role at a competent level:

- An ability to engage and manage suitable technical experts, as necessary to assist with assessing consent applications, and to ensure that deliverables are provided within established timeframes and cost expectations.
- A demonstrated ability to prepare clear concise reports and letters for a range of audiences.
- Ability to work under pressure and to manage priorities to ensure that deadlines are met, allowing sufficient and reasonable time for internal review processes and that any significant issues are identified as early as possible in the consent process.
- Excellent stakeholder relationship management, facilitation and networking skills.
- Proficiency in MS Word, Excel, Project, PowerPoint, IRIS and other database and information management systems.
- Demonstrate collaborative work practices that build strong working relationships.
- Problem solving working knowledge
- An ability to relate to and develop a rapport with a diverse population.
- Ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines.
- Sound understanding of tikanga Māori and Māori values and an appreciation as to how they relate to Regional Council functions.

Personal Attributes

- Open-minded approach to learning, development and collaborative working practices.
- Sound judgement and initiative
- An ability to work under pressure, deal with ambiguity and work in a political environment.
- Ability to remain flexible and be innovative.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to initiate and engage effectively at all levels, internally and externally.
- Ability to effectively gather multiple sources of information and apply technical and analytical skills to make effective decisions.
- Ability to effectively plan, organise and co-ordinate work to ensure that goals are achieved with the highest quality of work possible within agreed timeframes.
- Ability to clarify objectives, identify key issues, consider all perspectives and evaluate.
- Ability to cope with a variety of work and on occasion difficult situations.
- A high level of courtesy and listening skills.

Awareness

- Demonstrated awareness of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and including Te Reo Māori in relevant and practical ways in interaction and engagement to demonstrate respect and value of Tikanga Māori in appropriate settings.

CHANGES TO JOB DESCRIPTION

From time to time it may be necessary to consider changes in the job description in response to the changing nature of our work environment. Such changes, including technological requirements or statutory changes, may be initiated by the manager of this job with due consultation with the position holder. This job description should be reviewed as part of the preparation for performance planning for the annual performance cycle.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read this job description and fully understand the requirements set forth therein. I understand that this is to be used as a guide and that I will be responsible for performing other duties as assigned. I further understand that this job description does not constitute an employment contract with Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Employee Signature

Date

Printed Name