

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSENT

What is an Environmental Consent?

An Environmental Consent is a permission granted to an applicant for any activity that has some but not significant environmental impact. A technical report must be provided.

How do I know that I need an Environmental Consent?

Applicants will be requested to complete an Environment Significance Declaration (ESD) Form to determine if an Environmental Consent is required. The outcome of the ESD Form will determine the correct application process.

What do I need for an Environmental Consent?

NES will assess the ESD Form then issue a Terms of Reference to outline all required information. The applicant will be required to submit a Technical Report, also referred to as an Engineering Report.

What are examples of activities that require an Environmental Approval?

Examples are not limited to the following:

- Specific land clearance (foreshore, sloping land, wetlands and streams)
- Earthworks – relating to excavation, drainage, roads and building platforms
- Tourism and Commercial extension or renovation
- Removal of coral

Who needs an Environmental Consent?

Applicants will need an Environmental Consent based on the type of activity specified in Tier 2. The Applicant can be commercial operators, Government Departments (particularly in Earthworks), local residents and individuals.

Who grants an Environmental Consent?

All Island Environment Authorities (IEA) or the National Environment Council (NEC).

What is the difference between An Environmental Consent and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Permit?

An Environmental Consent relates to activities outlined in Tier 2 and an EIA Permit in Tier 3.



Who can prepare a Technical Report?

Technical Reports can be prepared by qualified technical experts or engineers based on the type and nature of the project.


What is the process to obtain an Environmental Consent?

See Table on page 2.

What is the fee for an Environmental Consent?

Private or Individual: \$100 per application
Commercial: \$200 per application

Who can I contact to get more information?

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 resources@cookislands.gov.ck

ENV. CONSENT PROCESS MAP



APPLICATION
RECEIVED



ASSESSMENT



APPROVAL

	1. APPLICATION	2. ASSESSMENT	3. APPROVAL
A	Applicant to complete and submit ESD Form	NES to review and provide input to the Applicant.	NES to submit Revised Technical Report to the Island Environment Authority (IEA) or the National Environment Council (NEC)
Timeline	Applicant to submit	10 to 20 working days	Notice to IEA - 10 working days. Notice to NEC - 7 working days
B	NES to review and conduct onsite inspection	Applicant to review submissions and submit Revised Technical Report.	IEA to sit and assess the Revised Technical Report and supporting documents. IEA as the Permitting Authority grants, defer or declines Permit
Timeline	5 working days	5 working days	IEA sits once a month. NEC Special Meetings can be requested
C	If Consent required, NES to notify applicant and issue a Terms of Reference for the Technical Report	NES to prepare Revised Technical Report and Permitting Authority Memorandum	NES to prepare and notify Applicant. If approved, applicant can carry out work. If deferred refer to 1D. If declined refer to 4A.
Timeline	5 working days	2 working days	2 working days
D	Applicant to submit Technical Report and pay application fee	NES to prepare Revised EIA Report and Permitting Authority Memorandum.	
Timeline	Applicant to submit	2 working days	