



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**  
TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS



## **ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE DECLARATION AND PERMIT**

### **KIA ORANA**

Any person, group or organisation that intends to carry out any activity that may impact the environment must fill out this declaration.

The checklist is used to identify physical, biological, social and economic factors, which might be changed by the proposal. Normally a background study will show those factors or issues that the proposal will or will not impact. A "YES" answer indicates further consideration to obtaining more information may be necessary. A "NO" answer in the second column indicates that the activity has no or low impact to the environment.



*E Kura Mana to tatou Aorangi*

Under the Environment Act 2003 – Part 5, it is a requirement that all activities be assessed as to its potential impact upon the environment. Your cooperation in filling out this form will assist the National Environment Service in protecting our environment. Meitaki Maata.

### Section A: General Information

<b>A 1. Name of Applicant:</b>				
<b>A 2. Is the application on behalf of a business or organisation? State here</b>				
<b>A 3. Name of the Project or Activity:</b>				
<b>A 4. Project Address:</b>				
Vaka		Land Title		
District		Part Section		
Tapere		Lot		
<b>A 5. Nature of ownership of land (tick appropriate box)</b>				
Occupation Right:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vesting Order:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		
<b>A 6. Contact Details:</b>				
Phone Number		Mobile Number		
Email Address				
<b>A 7. Person or persons who have vested interests in this activity</b>				
<b>A 8. Environment Significance Checklist (tick appropriate box)</b>				
Will this development -	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. cause erosion on site and neighbouring properties due to rain, surface water, wind or wave action?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. take place within 30 metres of the defined foreshore area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. take place between the defined foreshore and the reef	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. take place within 5 metres of a bank of a stream, river or lake?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v. take place on a site with a slope greater than 1:10 (slope of 15 degrees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi. take place on or affect the top of a hill or mountain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vii. take place above or affect any water intakes /catchments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
viii. take place in or affect any wetlands areas e.g. taro swamps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ix. take place on or affect any motu or makatea areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
x. take place in or affect public and recreation areas or access to these areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
xi. take place within or affect any reserve, parks or protected area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
xii. impact on any species or species habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
xiii. generate waste or pollution of any type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## Section B: Proposal

### B 1. Describe your project or activity?

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### B 2. Does your project or activity take place on or relate to any of these areas of concern?

Foreshore and Cook Islands Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inland Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sloping Land	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low lying area or depression	<input type="checkbox"/>	Makatea	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disposal of Chemicals or Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of Species	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protected Area e.g. ra'ui	<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

### B 3. Do any of these activity types fit the description of your proposal?

Tick all that apply

Foreshore Clearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreshore Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreshore Protection - Gabions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreshore Protection - Rock Revetments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreshore Protection - Groynes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreshore Protection - Coastal Protection Units (CPUs)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development/clearance within the lagoon and Cook Islands Waters			<input type="checkbox"/>	Coastal Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stream Clearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream Development - Rock Revetments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream Development - Gabions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stream Diversion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream dredging	<input type="checkbox"/>	Filling of wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation clearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Excavation on sloping land	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining of sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extension to residential development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Extension /Reconstruction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tourism Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism Accommodation - Extension/Reconstruction	<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### B 4. Describe any features that are unique about your project or activity?

e.g. it is the only of it's kind

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### B 5. Are there any significant features of the present ecosystem? Describe

e.g. site for the protection of endangered species from extinction, heritage site

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### B 6. Brief description of what the land is currently being used for:

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### B 7. Which of these apply to the current use of the land?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
Agriculture crops (commercial)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Agriculture crops (subsistence)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Live stock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Retail or Commercial Purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Native Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Bush or scrubland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed shoreline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reclaimed land (coastal or wetlands)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low lying or natural depression areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquaculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational or public area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural & cultural heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Section C: Environment Significance Details (Please tick appropriately)

This checklist is used to identify physical, biological, social and economic factors which might be changed by your proposed project or activity. Usually a background study will show those factors or areas that an activity will or will not impact. A “YES” answer indicates that further consideration is necessary. A “NO” answer indicates that the activity will not impact those areas or factors.

### NON LIVING THINGS

Will your project or activity directly or indirectly:				
C 1. Earth	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. Require the use of earth moving equipment that could change the shape and natural layout of the land or destabilize the area causing land slips?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Destroy, cover or change any landform or natural feature unique to the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Will materials* for back filling be brought in from another site? - If yes, what type and from where?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Will any materials* be removed from the site? - If yes, what types?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v. Involve the construction or erection of any wall or structure within the foreshore or Cook Islands waters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi. Will a new road or access way be required?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
C 2. Water	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. Change the present water flow direction of a lagoon, stream, estuary or natural drainage causeway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Will the project alter the existing surface water flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Be located in an area where flooding occurs often because of a nearby stream; or the area is likely to be affected by flood waters or sea surge and tropical cyclones?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Cause an increase or decrease in the amount and quality of water on the ground, underground or to the supply of drinking water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

\*Materials: Includes materials such as silt, sand, soil, cobble, gravel, boulder, hard rock, coral, trees, vegetation

Will your project or activity directly or indirectly:				
C 3. Pollution	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. Would it produce poisonous gases that could result in the air becoming less clean and dangerous to people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Would it cause the production of excessive waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Would it cause the discharge of any chemical or its waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Would it cause noticeable bad smell?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v. Cause more noise than usual or make the ground to tremble disturbing neighbours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## LIVING THINGS

Will your project or activity directly or indirectly:				
C 4. Plants:	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. Change the number of different plant species on the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Cause the numbers of special plants, or plants already low in numbers to be further decreased; or disturb the places these plants live in. These special plants include those that are not found anywhere else, or that are in danger of dying out completely?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Bring a new kind of plant into the area? If the new plant does not exist in the area naturally, then it might compete with the present plants resulting in other plants dying out?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Reduce the amount of land that could be used for agriculture, business, or other uses that might be important to the community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
C 5. Animals:	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. Destroy or ruin the places that animals live in? (i.e. birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects or microfauna)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Change the population numbers of different kinds of animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Bring in a new kind of animal that does not already exist in the place, or that will cause other resident animals to move away from their usual living places?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 3. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Will your project or activity directly or indirectly:				
C 6. General:	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. Cause you to break any law in the Cook Islands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Support any existing plans, policies or goals made by the village, communities or by Government?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Contradicts any existing plans, policies or goals made by the village, communities or by Government?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Alter or impact on any important scenic areas or natural land marks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v. Affect or destroy historical and significant sites such as marae, old buildings or artefacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi. Alter the aesthetics (natural and visual scenery) of the surrounding areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
C 7. Social:	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. Disrupt households and existing businesses in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Potentially disturb people's lifestyles or usual practices in the community or neighbourhood?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Involve the risk of an explosion or an accident happening thereby endangering people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Create traffic detours, temporarily restrict access, etc?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v. Use places commonly used by people such as parks, recreation areas, or wildlife sanctuaries or water flow areas which are protected for public purposes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi. Produce more light, glare or shadows, e.g. glaring lights, overshadowing a planter's crop, etc?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
C 8. Economic:	Yes	No	Unsure	Comments
i. Cause fewer jobs or fewer businesses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

ii. Cause other businesses or growers to move?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Cause the worth of the property to decrease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Cause any changes to the inter-island movement of traffic either by air or sea?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## Section D: Operational Activities

Following the completion of this project or activity there may be additional impacts that need to be considered.

<b>Will the ongoing operation of the proposed activity;</b>				
<b>D 1. Generate waste or pollution?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Comments</b>
i. Liquid waste (include the wash down of machinery, paint, oils, sewage)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Solid waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Hazardous waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Increase the level of noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v. Chemical pollutants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi. Gaseous wastes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vii. Storm water runoff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
viii. <i>If YES {to the above} can the amount of waste be managed within the site or will it be removed</i>				
<b>D 2. Biodiversity</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Comments</b>
i. Impact on any bird, animal, plant or marine species or habitats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>D 3. Social</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Comments</b>
i. Disrupt households and existing businesses in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Potentially disturb people's lifestyles or usual practices in the community or neighbourhood?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Involve the risk of an explosion or an accident happening thereby endangering people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Create traffic detours, temporarily restrict access, etc?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v. Use places commonly used by people such as parks, recreation areas, or wildlife sanctuaries or water flow areas which are protected for public purposes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi. Produce more light, glare or shadows, e.g. glaring lights, overshadowing a planter's crop, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>D 4. Could the activity create additional impacts to the country's:</b>				
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Comments</b>
i. Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii. Transport and Parking Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii. Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv. Emergency services (fire, ambulance, cyclone shelters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v. Waste management facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi. Community Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Foreshore:</b>	Means all that area from the Mean High Water Mark (The line of mean high tide between the ordinary high-water spring and ordinary high-water neap tides. It is the average of all high tides), moving
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	towards inland, to a distance of 30 metres or to where vegetation begins as well as those areas defined in the Environment Act 2003 (see last page)
<b>Cook Islands waters:</b>	Means the internal waters of the Cook Islands as defined by section 4 of the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1977, the territorial sea, and the exclusive economic zone
<b>Inland waters:</b>	Means the waters, banks (5 metres landward from edge) and beds (whether dry or not) of any stream, river or lake.
<b>Wetlands:</b>	Means areas of marsh, swamp or water whether - natural or artificial; permanent seasonally flooded or temporary; with water that is static or flowing, or fresh, brackish or salty, and; includes water storage reservoirs, taro swamps and fish farms.
<b>Sloping Land:</b>	Means any area of land that has a slope greater than a gradient of 1:10 (slope of at least 15 degrees)
<b>Earthworks:</b>	e.g. levelling of land, backfilling, replacing sand with red soil materials etc

<b>All applicants are required to provide the following information;</b>	
<b>Block Map</b>	This is available from the Survey Division, Ministry of Justice
<b>Site Map</b>	This is available from the Survey Division, Ministry of Justice
<b>Site Plan</b>	This must show; Where the proposed drainage systems will be The slope of the land and the surface water flows Land drainage patterns Access roads Water supply Driveway If applicable to your activity – the site plan should also show; Waste treatment system e.g. septic tank Buildings Rock revetments/groynes Excavated land Filled areas (e.g. wetlands)

Additional information may be required at a later stage.

**WARNING:**

**Activities carried out without any authorization will result in a breach of the Environment Act 2003 and may be subject to fines and prosecution.**

I ..... **hereby declare that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that anything stated may be held against me.**

**Signature of Applicant:** ..... **Date:** .....

**For office use only**

National Environment Service

Activity is	* Approved	[ ]	
	* Not Approved	[ ]	Stamp
	* Hold, amendments required	[ ]	

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Building Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Consent Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**At the end of Section D, the National Environment Service, within reasonable time will advise you whether your activity causes or is likely to cause significant environment impacts and what further action will be required from you, if any.**

For any enquiries, contact us via:

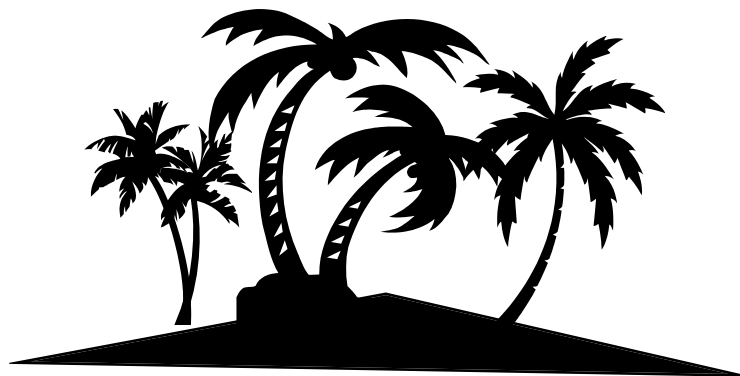
Telephone: (682) 21256

Fax: (682) 22256

PO Box 371 Rarotonga,  
Cook Islands

Email: [resources@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:resources@cookislands.gov.ck)

Web: [www.environment.org.ck](http://www.environment.org.ck)



**“Foreshore”** means:

- (a) in relation to Rarotonga –
  - (i) all that area between the mean high water mark and a line connecting those points landward and measured at right angles to a distance 30 metres from the mean high water mark or to the edge of the vegetation, whichever shall be the greater distance; and
  - (ii) every estuary, stream or river together with the bed of any stream or river and includes that area extending landward and measured at right angles from the mean high water mark in that estuary to a distance 5 metres landward from the edge of the vegetation; and
- (b) in relation to any Outer Island to which this Act applies–
  - (i) any area specified to be foreshore by the Island Environment Authority for the island concerned and approved for this purpose by the Queen’s Representative by Order in Executive Council; and
  - (ii) in the absence of any such order for an island, any area prescribed by regulations to be foreshore for the island, after consultation with the Island Environment Authority for the island concerned;