

## COSTS

As a dam owner you will need to meet the costs of engaging a recognised engineer to:

- Audit and prepare the necessary classification certificate.
- Prepare a dam safety assurance programme and annual dam compliance certificate (if your dam is classified as being of high or medium risk).

### Building Act Charges

Section 243 of the Building Act provides that the Regional Authority may recover the costs for performing its functions under the Act. The costs for undertaking some of the functions in relation to the regulation and management of dams are to be recovered as follows:

#### Process a consent application:

Charge = (staff hours x hourly charge rate) + disbursements.  
Refer to schedule 2 (Annual Plan appendix 3) for hourly charge rates.

#### Monitor consent compliance and dam safety and to take any corrective action:

Charge = (staff hours x hourly charge rate) + disbursements.  
Refer to schedule 2 (Annual Plan appendix 3) for hourly charge rates.

Where external contractors and consultants are used to assist Environment Canterbury to complete its functions, their actual charge out rates will apply.

Environment Canterbury is required by regulation to collect and pay the Department of Building and Housing and BRANZ levies for certain functions carried out under the Act. These levies may change in accordance with amendments to regulations. These levies will be collected in addition to any fees listed above.

### Finding the right engineer

As a dam owner you will need to ensure the engineer you engage is competent and has the necessary experience and qualifications relating to dam engineering and safety assurance.

The Institution of Professional Engineers NZ or the Association of Consulting Engineers NZ can help you find the right engineer.

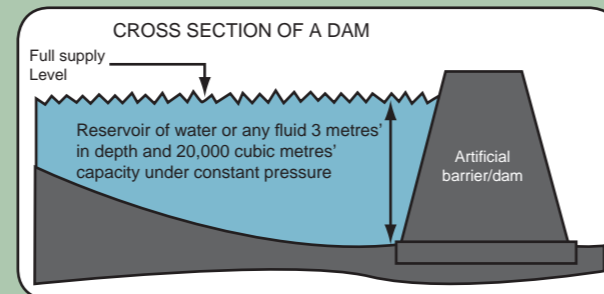
## DEFINITION OF A DAM

### A dam

- (a) means an artificial barrier, and any connected structures, that:
- i) is constructed to hold back water or other fluid under constant pressure so as to form a reservoir; and
  - ii) is used for the storage, control, or diversion of water or other fluid; and
- (b) includes:
- iii) a flood control dam; and
  - iv) a natural feature that has been significantly modified to function as a dam; and
  - v) a canal.
- (c) does not include a stopbank designed to control floodwaters.  
(From The Building Act 2004)

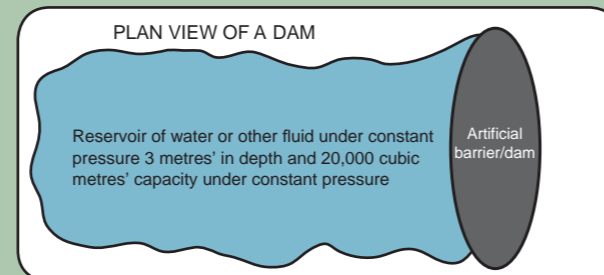
### A large dam:

retains 3 or more metres depth, and holds 20,000 or more cubic metres volume, of water or other fluid.



Indicative area (based on average depth of the reservoir) that a dam holding 20,000 cubic metres will cover is:

- 0.67 hectares for a 3 metre deep reservoir;
- 0.50 hectares for a 4 metre deep reservoir.



## APPLYING FOR A BUILDING CONSENT

### Make sure your application has enough detail

It is important that there is enough detail in the building consent application to enable an assessment by ECan, and to demonstrate the dam will comply with the relevant parts of the NZ Building Code.

If there is not sufficient information in the application we will request you supply it. Any application may be put on hold until sufficient information has been received.

### Get a PIM – a what?

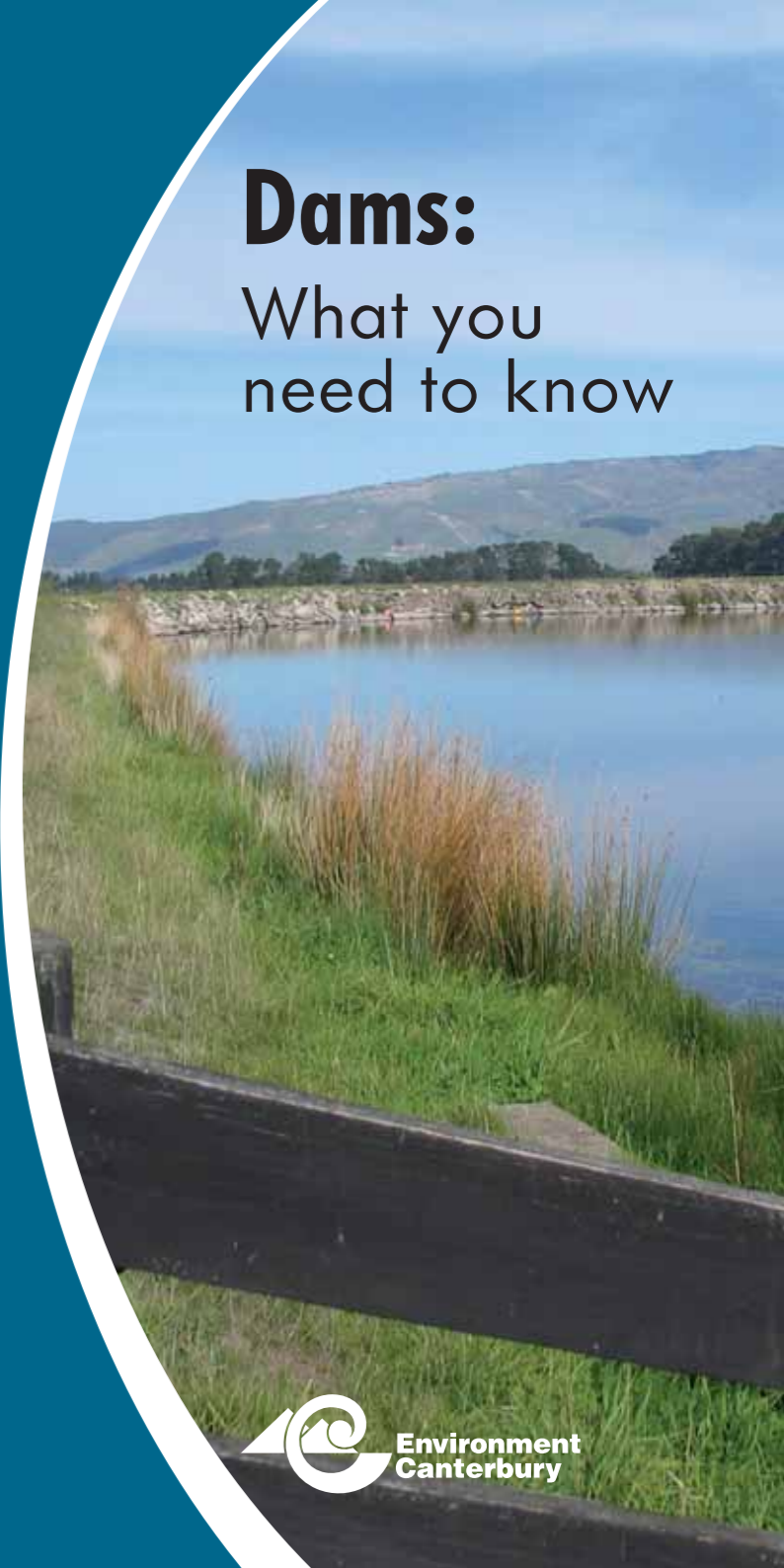
A building consent cannot be granted without a PIM – a Project Information Memorandum.

A PIM is a report that provides a prescribed set of information on a specific property. For example: details of any stormwater systems which relate to your proposal, any land classifications imposed on your property by organisations such as the Department of Conservation or the Historic Places Trust and any resource consents that already apply to the property.

This information is used by ECan staff in processing your consent. A PIM must be obtained from both ECan and your relevant district or city council.

**For further information or to arrange for a Frequently Asked Questions booklet to be sent out to you, please contact ECan on 03 353 9007 or freephone 0800 324 636.**

# Dams: What you need to know



## HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A *building consent* is required for all structures that meet the definition of a large dam.

This pamphlet describes how you can obtain a building consent for your dam.

It also describes your other obligations as a dam owner, including *classifying* and *registering* your dam and the *ongoing dam safety requirements*.

Environment Canterbury (ECan) has the responsibility of ensuring dams are well constructed, that large dams are regularly monitored and that the potential risks to people and property are minimised. Please obtain the following certifications to ensure your dam is not a threat to people, property or the environment.

### Building consent application phase

**STEP 1** Application lodged, PIM applied for.

It is important to apply for a PIM as soon as possible. ECan recommends that you obtain a PIM before submitting a building consent application.

**STEP 2** ECan will vet the application for completeness to ensure that sufficient information has been provided to allow processing to commence. ECan will contract expert consultants to assess your application to make sure that it complies with the New Zealand Building Code and Engineering Standards.

If ECan rejects your application you will be advised in writing and reasons given for the decision. *ECan normally gives a decision within 20 working days, from receipt of all required information, whether or not to grant your application. If further information is required from the applicant, the 20 working day 'processing clock' is stopped until it is received.*

**STEP 3** Application granted or declined.

#### APPLICATION GRANTED

ECan advises you by letter that your application has been granted. The letter will include a set of conditions that must be complied with. *Please note: The building consent will only be issued upon payment of any outstanding fees and levies.*

#### APPLICATION DECLINED

ECan advises you by letter that your application was declined, including the reasons why.

### Resource consents

Resource consents may be required when taking, using, damming or diverting water and controlling the quantity, level and flow of water. The works associated with the dam construction itself may trigger the requirement for a resource consent, for example carrying out earthworks.

You should discuss your development with the staff at ECan and your relevant district or city council to identify what, if any, resource consents are required.

### Code compliance certificate phase

**STEP 1** On-site inspections during construction phase

**STEP 2** Final inspection on project completion. Contact ECan's BCA co-ordinator to arrange this.

**STEP 3** Owner applies to ECan for a Code Compliance Certificate (CCC) after all the building work is completed. This is issued if ECan is reasonably satisfied that the building work complies with the NZ Building Code and engineering standards. A CCC provides a record of the building work and provides written evidence that the work is legal.

### Potential Impact Classification (PIC) phase

Within three months of the dam being commissioned the owner has a recognised engineer classify the potential impact of the dam as *high, medium or low*. This refers to the impact of a failure of the dam on persons, property, or the environment.

#### IMPACT IS HIGH OR MEDIUM

Register the above classification with ECan.

Produce a dam safety assurance program. This is an assessment of the risks and how they will be managed to make sure the dam is safe.

#### IMPACT IS LOW

A dam safety assurance program is not required.

### Ongoing safety assurance

If your dam is classified as having a medium or high potential impact you are required to provide an annual dam compliance certificate. A recognised engineer assesses the dam and provides this certificate.

#### REVIEW OF CLASSIFICATION

All dam owners are required to review the dam's potential impact classification:

- within five years of approval of the classification by ECan; and
- after the first review, at intervals of not more than five years.

You must also review the dam's classification if you carry out any building work on the dam that requires a building consent and the building work results, or could result in a change to the potential impact of a failure of the dam.

