

At A Glance

Resource Management and Environmental Economics in New Zealand

Overview

In New Zealand, NERA's experts specialise in the application of microeconomic analysis to legal and policy issues in the areas of resource management and environmental economics, competition, regulation, contract disputes, and damages.

We have applied economic principles and methods to a range of issues regarding resource management and environmental economics. Our experts have analysed the economic effects of resource consent applications and plan changes, undertaken cost-benefit analyses including quantification of environmental impacts, and evaluated the economic implications of environmental policy. Our experts have provided evidence before local councils, hearings panels, and the Environment Court.

Key Areas of Expertise

NERA provides a wide range of economic analysis in relation to New Zealand's resource management and environmental legislation, including:

- Economic effects analysis for resource consent applications and plan changes;
- Cost-benefit analysis for section 32 evaluations;
- Market design of economic instruments in planning regimes; and
- Environmental policy evaluation.

Global Synergies

As part of a global firm, NERA's New Zealand-based team is able to leverage the expertise of the firm's global Environmental Economics Practice, which includes industry-leading experts who work with clients worldwide, particularly across Europe and North America. We can utilise this international expertise to provide specialist insights into specific projects, or to fulfill the role of an economic expert on projects where a wider international perspective may be called for.

Examples of Client Experience

Evaluating the Economic Effects of a Resource Consent Application for a Coal Mine

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society retained NERA to analyse the economic effects of a resource consent application for a coal mine on the West Coast of New Zealand. We submitted expert evidence before the Environment Court, analysing the regional GDP and employment effects of the application. We also assessed and quantified the implications of the proposed coal mine for regional and national economic well-being.

Analysing Economic Effects of Changes to a Water Management Plan

Wairakei Pastoral Limited engaged NERA to provide expert economic analysis of its applications for irrigation water resource consent and its appeals of the Waikato Regional Council's proposed water allocation plan variation. We examined the implications of the plan variation and resource consent applications for efficient resource use and management. Our examination included undertaking a cost-benefit analysis, which quantified the costs and benefits of allocating water from hydro

electricity generation to dairy irrigation, and an analysis of water trading rules in the plan variation. We provided expert evidence before both the Waikato Regional Council and the Environment Court.

Review of the Economic Impacts of a Resource Consent Application for a Cement Factory

Waiareka Valley Preservation Society retained NERA to provide economic analysis for its appeals over an application for resource consent to build a cement plant near Oamaru. We provided evidence before the Waitaki District Council and Otago Regional Council, which included a critical review of the claimed economic effects of the plant. Additionally, we assessed the implications of this analysis for economic well-being.

Cost-Benefit Analysis of Conversion of Forestry to Pastoral Land

For a confidential client, NERA experts undertook an extensive cost-benefit analysis quantifying the benefits and costs of the conversion of forestry to dairy pastoral land throughout New Zealand. Our analysis included quantifying the monetary impacts of environmental effects, such as carbon emissions, water use, and nutrient discharges.

About NERA

NERA Economic Consulting (www.nera.com) is a global firm of experts dedicated to applying economic, finance, and quantitative principles to complex business and legal challenges. For over half a century, NERA's economists have been creating strategies, studies, reports, expert testimony, and policy recommendations for government authorities and the world's leading law firms and corporations. We bring academic rigor, objectivity, and real world industry experience to bear on issues arising from competition, regulation, public policy, strategy, finance, and litigation.

NERA's clients value our ability to apply and communicate state-of-the-art approaches clearly and convincingly, our commitment to deliver unbiased findings, and our reputation for quality and independence. Our clients rely on the integrity and skills of our unparalleled team of economists and other experts backed by the resources and reliability of one of the world's largest economic consultancies. With its main office in New York City, NERA serves clients from more than 25 offices across North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.