

Up to code

WITH JULIE CONRADI

News from Southland District Council's building solutions team.

The building professional you choose to represent you during your build now has the option to submit consent applications electronically.

They can nominate you, the homeowner, as an interested party so that you have full visibility of the progress of your application through Council.

From 1 July 2020 electronic submission will be our primary method of receiving your building consent files and processing your applications. This will bring benefits for both you, the customer, and Council as the building control authority. You will be able to see your files online and monitor the progress of your application as our building solutions team members work through the details.

The Simpli platform we are using for electronic lodgement is already up and running and it works well. However, not as many people as we would like are using it. We reiterate that by 30 June, when the GoGet platform we will use to process your electronic forms goes live, we expect everyone to be using this system.

In the meantime, the Covid-19 virus is having an impact on all levels of society and physical two-metre distancing is being advocated by the Ministry of Health as an effective means to limit the spread of the virus. During this time, as Council's offices are closed, we ask that you use our online lodgement option for submitting building consent forms. This will support healthy and safe work practices for your business and for Council.

You should be aware that after 30 June we will charge a \$70 fee for scanning paper building consent applications. The ability to submit paper files will always be available but from 1 July electronic submission and processing will be Southland District Council's primary way of doing business.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE



When you email our building solutions team, no matter what your query is, it's important that you send it only to the email address set up for this purpose: **building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz**

Our administration team monitor this inbox. They set up our systems to report 'work waiting' and ensure the clock starts again on the date that your new information is received.

All building communications should come to this email address. The single email address ensures that we can track your responses and deal with them in a timely manner.

Use the 'CC' function only when other parties need to be aware of the information.

Please only email the **building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz** address. It will help us to better serve you.

POOL AND SPA AUDITS



The Building Act now requires residential pools to be inspected every three years. We will soon be carrying out these

inspections throughout the District, with a focus on pools and spa pools that don't meet the legal requirements to prevent unsupervised access by children under five years of age.

- Julie Conradi is Southland District Council's building solutions manager