

Effective Regional Council RMA Compliance Monitoring

November 2025 Two-Day ENVIROKNOWLEDGE®
Training For

Regional Council Compliance Monitoring Professionals

By

SELVA SELVARAJAH PhD

ENVIR  KNOWLEDGE®

HIGH QUALITY RMA & ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

*The only High Quality Technical Workshop in
Regional Council Compliance Monitoring under the RMA*



Why is this training critical?

RMA compliance monitoring is a significant and costly component of the regional councils' operational activity. Unlike consent process, which is prescribed under Part 6 of the Act, there are no prescribed procedures for RMA compliance monitoring which involves pro-active consents/permitted activity monitoring and reactive complaints/pollution incidents responses and reactive/pro-active enforcement.

Responding to incidents/complaints often warrants environmental sampling/monitoring which in turn demands instant robust technical and legal knowledge. The same applies to consent auditing of wide-ranging activities. To date, much of the compliance staff training has been on investigation and enforcement procedures. Whilst the above skills are crucial to the regional councils using enforcement as one of the key tools to improve RMA compliance, >90% of the regional council compliance monitoring work input is related to compliance monitoring activities.

With the above in mind, ENVIROKNOWLEDGE® has developed a comprehensive 2-day course and a comprehensive manual to improve technical and legal knowledge to monitor wide ranging RMA activities needed to successfully perform comprehensive RMA compliance monitoring.

Who can benefit?

- Regional Council Compliance Monitoring Staff

About the workshop knowledge provider

The extensive workshop contents and the technical compliance monitoring manual has been researched and developed by **Dr Selva Selvarajah**. He has 21 years of regional council Compliance Monitoring, Enforcement and Consents Process experience. Owing to his hands-on involvement by council delegation coupled with his wider legal and technical knowledge in soil, water, wastewater and air management, he has acquired detailed knowledge in technically and legally sound and environmentally effective compliance monitoring. Under delegation he reviewed and approved thousands of consent audits and managed >75 successful prosecutions and >300 infringement notices under the RMA.

He has sound technical and legislative knowledge in soil, water and wastewater management. He has written more than 90 reports, newspaper articles and publications (visit www.enviroknowledge.co.nz for reports and publications) and he has excellent presentation (6 keynote papers & presentations in NZ and overseas) and workshop skills (>400 regional/district council, consultancy and CRI professionals attended his exclusive workshops since 2015). His workshops are of high quality, well-researched and presented. Some examples are the well-attended "Nitrogen in the Environment", "Effective Wastewater Management under the RMA", "Effective Farm Environment Management under the RMA" and "Effective Regional Council Consents Process under the RMA". Selva has high citations and research interest score at ResearchGate (for further information - https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Selva_Selvarajah).

Workshop topics not to be missed

1. ENVIROKNOWLEDGE® techniques for efficient, legally defensible and cost-effective consents monitoring.
2. Technical understanding of contaminant monitoring in water and soil and interpreting the laboratory/monitoring data.
3. Technical understanding of wastewater quality and treatment.

Please register with your full name, name of your employer, position and location you wish to attend at sustain@enviroknowledge.co.nz. *Seats are limited to 15 per location.* For any further information on the workshop please e-mail or call on 03 4776111. For onsite group training and discount details (page 24) please download the training compendium: www.enviroknowledge.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Workshops/ENVIROKNOWLEDGE-Training-and-Services-Compendium-for-ALL-Clients-July-2025.pdf

Registration closing date: **14 November 2025**

¹Workshop fee/person: **\$1475 (Excluding GST) (2018 price)**

Workshop scheduled time: **9.00 am to 5.00 pm daily**

Workshop Venues	Dates
Hamilton - Aaron Court Motor Inn, 250 Ulster Street	20 & 21 November 2025
Dunedin- Alhambra Oaks Motor Lodge, 558 Great King Street	27 & 28 November 2025

¹Workshop fee: Includes lunch, tea/coffee, hardcopy colour manual (Edition 7, 134 pages), certificate for attendance and 3-month clarification support on workshop contents. Discount of 5% for 3-5 attendees and 10% for ≥6 attendees from the same organisation can be applied.

EFFECTIVE REGIONAL COUNCIL RMA COMPLIANCE MONITORING

ENVIROKNOWLEDGE® NOVEMBER 2025 WORKSHOP FOR REGIONAL COUNCIL COMPLIANCE PROFESSIONALS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. WHAT IS EFFICIENT COMPLIANCE MONITORING?**
 - a. Staff management
 - b. Compliance and consents monitoring strategy
 - c. Consents monitoring procedures
 - d. Enforcement strategy
 - e. Enforcement procedures
 - f. Compliance database
 - g. Delegations
 - h. Technical inputs/assistance
 - i. Complaints/incidents management
 - j. Timely consents monitoring
 - k. Poor permitted activity rules
 - l. Poor consents conditions
 - m. Management plans
 - n. Consents reviews
 - o. Legally defensible consents monitoring
 - p. Cost effective consents monitoring
- 3. WHAT IS EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE MONITORING?**
 - a. Consents conditions are not adequate
 - b. Monitoring conditions
 - c. Changing circumstances
 - d. Limits/standards not sufficient
 - e. Unidentified adverse effects
- 4. EFFICIENT, LEGALLY SOUND AND ENVIRONMENTALLY EFFECTIVE CONSENTS MONITORING**
 - a. DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATER
 - i. Legal considerations
 - ii. Technical considerations
 1. Discharge of water to water
 2. Discharge of contaminants to water
 - a. Contaminants in discharges, limits and contaminants behaviour in surface water
 - b. NPSFM 2020
 - c. Nitrogen
 - d. Phosphorus
 - e. BOD
 - f. SS and sediments
 - g. Faecal bacteria
 - h. Heavy metals and hazardous substances
 - i. Emerging contaminants
 - j. Sewage
 - k. Industrial

- l. Farm
- b. DISCHARGES TO LAND
 - i. Legal considerations
 - ii. Technical considerations
 - 1. Land disposal
 - 2. Land treatment
- c. DISCHARGES TO AIR
 - i. Legal considerations
 - ii. Technical considerations
 - 1. Boilers
 - 2. Odour from industrial sites
- d. RIVERBED DISTURBANCES AND STRUCTURES
 - i. Legal considerations
 - ii. Technical considerations
 - 1. Gravel extractions
 - 2. Structures
- e. WATER TAKES AND USES
 - i. Legal considerations and interpretations
 - ii. Water use information
 - iii. Water allocation, storage, minimum flows, groundwater level restrictions and water shortage directions
 - iv. Technical considerations
- f. DAMMING/DIVERSIONS
 - i. Legal considerations
 - ii. Technical considerations
- g. COASTAL
 - i. Legislative considerations
 - 1. Aquaculture
 - 2. Coastal discharges
 - 3. Coastal structures, reclamations and bed disturbances
 - ii. Technical considerations
 - 1. Aquaculture
 - 2. Coastal structure
 - 3. Dredging and dredging discharges
 - 4. Discharges (e.g. storm water, industrial/ sewage)
- h. EARTHWORKS
 - i. Legal considerations
 - ii. Technical considerations
- i. CONTAMINATED SITES
 - i. Legal considerations
 - ii. Technical considerations
- j. NITROGEN LEACHING LIMIT FOR FARMING ACTIVITY
 - i. Legal considerations
 - ii. Technical considerations
- 5. OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS
- 6. ADVANCEMENTS IN WASTEWATER TREATMENTS
- 7. WATER TAKE TRANSFERS
- 8. UNDERSTANDING NPS-FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT
- 9. NESs FOR COMMERCIAL FORESTRY
- 10. REQUIRING RETROSPECTIVE CONSENTS

11. CONSENTS COMMENCEMENTS

12. EMERGENCY WORK CONSENTS UNDER S330

13. CONSENTS LAPSES, CANCELLATIONS AND SURRENDERS

- a. Lapses under s125
- b. Cancellations under s126

14. CONSENTS RENEWALS AND COMPLIANCE

15. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

16. ENFORCEMENT

- a. How to identify offences correctly under the Act?
- b. Warnings and infringement notices
- c. Role of abatement notices
- d. Role of enforcement orders
- e. Understanding interim enforcement order
- f. Can diversion be used as an enforcement tool?