

# Effective Regional Council RMA Consents Monitoring

October 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 Consents Monitoring under the RMA*



## Why is this training critical?

Resource consent monitoring is a significant and costly component of the regional councils' compliance monitoring activity. Whilst monitoring/auditing compliance against consent conditions may be a straightforward process, the assessment of the impact of the consented activity and the effectiveness of the consent conditions require considerable technical/scientific knowledge.

To date, much of the compliance monitoring 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, >80% of the consent monitoring staff time is accorded to consents monitoring, consent holder liaison and reporting.

With the above in mind, ENVIROKNOWLEDGE® has developed a comprehensive 2-day course and a comprehensive manual in technical consents monitoring under the RMA. Whilst the workshop is designed for regional council consents monitoring staff, it will also be useful to all compliance monitoring staff (incidents & response and permitted activity monitoring) because of the technical knowledge gathered.

## 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](http://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](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. Understanding the concept of effective versus efficient consent monitoring.
3. Understanding the consent process and compliance monitoring.
4. Technical understanding of water quality and contaminants and critical contaminant levels.
5. 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](mailto: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](http://www.enviroknowledge.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Workshops/ENVIROKNOWLEDGE-Training-and-Services-Compendium-for-ALL-Clients-July-2025.pdf)

**Registration closing date:** **26 September 2025**

**<sup>1</sup>Workshop 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	1 & 2 October 2025
Dunedin- Alhambra Oaks Motor Lodge, 558 Great King Street	13 & 14 October 2025

**<sup>1</sup>Workshop 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 CONSENTS MONITORING**

## **ENVIROKNOWLEDGE® October 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. NESs FOR FRESHWATER 2020

- 11. STOCK EXCLUSION REGULATIONS 2020**
- 12. REQUIRING RETROSPECTIVE CONSENTS**
- 13. CONSENTS COMMENCEMENTS**
- 14. EMERGENCY WORK CONSENTS UNDER S330**
- 15. CONSENTS LAPSES, CANCELLATIONS AND SURRENDERS**
  - a. Lapses under s125
  - b. Cancellations under s126
- 16. CONSENTS RENEWALS AND COMPLIANCE**
- 17. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**
- 18. 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?