

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

Making Good Decisions

The Training, Assessment and Certification Programme for RMA Decision-Makers



PROGRAMME BENEFITS

- Certification upon successful completion of workshop and assessment
- Understanding of RMA decision making process and regulations
- Common sense skills for hearings and making decisions

The Making Good Decisions Programme is designed to equip councillors, community board members and independent commissioners with the skills to make better decisions under the Resource Management Act (RMA). Designed and promoted by the Ministry for the Environment and Local Government New Zealand, the Programme is delivered by The University of Auckland's Centre for Continuing Education.

Certification under the Programme is the means by which decision-makers meet the accreditation requirement of the RMA. To date over 1,500 decision-makers have successfully obtained certification.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The Programme provides you, as an RMA decision-maker, with the skills needed to run fair and effective resource consent hearings and to make informed decisions.

It focuses on the legal, technical and practical skills needed by an effective hearing committee member.

It also covers the statutory framework within which decision-makers operate and presents solutions for dealing with practical issues, such as:

- distinguishing the role of decision-makers and council staff
- testing evidence
- understanding the difference between professional evidence and advocacy
- drafting clear robust decisions.

The workshop provides for debate and the sharing of experience. It involves a mix of presented material, open discussions and simulations of hearings.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

Following registration you will receive a workbook that contains the competencies that need to be achieved and which forms a valuable, permanent reference for decision-makers.

To complete the programme, you are required to:

- complete a pre-workshop assignment, which makes up 20% of the programme assessment and can take up to 15 hours to complete
- submit your pre-workshop assignment at the start of your workshop
- attend both days of the two-day workshop
- complete within seven weeks a post-workshop assignment, which makes up 80% of the programme assessment.

Be prepared to devote around 20 – 40 hours to complete your course requirements.

Once assignments have been marked and moderated by an experienced team, certificates are issued to all participants who have attended both days of the two-day workshop and have successfully completed the pre- and post-workshop assignments.

Those who do not initially meet the course requirements are given constructive feedback, and invited to re-submit their post-workshop assignment. If they are still unable to meet the course requirements, they will be invited to undergo a verbal assessment of their understanding.

The certificate remains valid for a period of three years.

A public list of certificate holders is available on the Ministry for the Environment website.

WORKSHOP – DAY ONE

9.00am	Welcome and programme outline
9.30am	Principles of good decision-making
10.50am	Morning tea
11.05am	Roles and procedures
12.00pm	Lunch
12.45pm	Conduct, ethics and issues
3.15pm	Afternoon tea
3.30pm	The hearing scenario
5.30pm	Day one ends

WORKSHOP – DAY TWO

9.00am	Evidence and questioning
11.00am	Morning tea
11.15am	Decision making
1.15pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Deliberation
3.00pm	Afternoon tea
3.20pm	Drafting and reviewing decisions
4.45pm	Workshop closes

Please note that this is an indicative programme.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Councillors and community board members with an interest in hearing committee roles under the RMA, whether new or experienced
- Independent commissioners that are regularly appointed to hear consent applications
- Aspiring independent commissioners.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

- A comprehensive workbook
- Personal tutoring
- Interactive workshop-style training
- Methods and tools you can use immediately
- Group learning – working with other delegates
- Lunch and refreshments.

The registration fee does not include dinner or accommodation (most workshop venues provide accommodation if required).

PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS

We have put together a great team of experienced presenters and facilitators to run the workshops and provide tutoring support. The team includes leading lawyers, planners, consultants and other practitioners who are likely to be familiar to most. The presenting team includes Alan Dormer, Paula Hunter, John Maassen, Christine Foster, Stephen Christensen, Ken Gimblett, with Jan Crawford, Karen Bell and Gay Pavelka acting as facilitators and tutors.

“Great to have a course that challenges thinking and allows for good discussion and practical learning too.”

Burnette O'Connor, Planner, O'Connor Planning Consultants

“I think the workshop was of great assistance not only in terms of any future role as a decision maker but it was also incredibly worthwhile in terms of the overview of the Resource Management Act. I think it will assist me in whatever role I take in a hearing, be it applicant, submitter or acting on behalf of Council.”

Phillipa Campbell, Independent Commissioner

Code	Dates	Venue	Presenters	Facilitator
I02291	Thursday 3 and Friday 4 February	AUCKLAND	Alan Dormer, Paula Hunter	Jan Crawford
I02292	Thursday 10 and Friday 11 February	DUNEDIN	Stephen Christensen, Ken Gimblett	Gay Pavelka
I02293	Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 February	PALMERSTON NORTH	John Maassen, Christine Foster	Karen Bell
I02294	Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 February	NELSON	Stephen Christensen, Ken Gimblett	Gay Pavelka
I02295	Thursday 3 and Friday 4 March	ROTORUA	John Maassen, Christine Foster	Karen Bell
I02296	Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 March	CHRISTCHURCH	Stephen Christensen, Ken Gimblett	Gay Pavelka
I02297	Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 March	HAMILTON	Alan Dormer, Paula Hunter	Jan Crawford
I02298	Thursday 17 and Friday 18 March	AUCKLAND	Alan Dormer, Paula Hunter	Jan Crawford
I02299	Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 March	WELLINGTON	John Maassen, Christine Foster	Karen Bell

COURSE FEE

The fee for the full training, assessment and certification programme is \$1,860.00 + GST (\$2,139.00 incl GST)

This fee is not refundable in the event that you are not successful in achieving certification.

THE ENROLMENT PROCESS

Enrolments open on Friday 10 December 2010. Numbers are limited and enrolment is on a first come first served basis for each location.

You will be sent a receipt and confirmation of place upon enrolment and a course pack three weeks before the workshop.

Enrolments for each workshop close two weeks before the date of the workshop.

MINISTRY ENQUIRIES

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