

# RMA basics worksheet

## RMA 1991 Intro

1. Which section describes the purpose of the Act?
2. What two words summarise the purpose of the Act according to this section?
3. Fill in the gaps in the following (taken directly from the Act):  
' \_\_\_\_\_ ' is defined in the RMA as: "managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a \_\_\_\_\_, which enables people and communities to provide for their \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ well-being and for their health and safety while-  
Sustaining the potential of \_\_\_\_\_ and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of \_\_\_\_\_ generations; and  
(b) Safeguarding the \_\_\_\_\_ capacity of air, water, soil ecosystems; and  
(c) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse \_of activities on the environment."
4. Under the RMA who are the 'local authorities'?
5. What is required if you want to do something that is not allowed under the Act?

## Resource Consents

1. Who issues resource consents?
2. When would a land use consent be required?
3. True or false? **Subdivision consents**: are required for any subdivision of land which infringes a rule in a District Plan (almost all subdivisions need a subdivision consent)
4. Fill in the gaps: \_\_\_\_\_ **permits**: are required for \_\_\_\_\_, using, damming or \_\_\_\_\_ water, or heat or energy from water, where these activities are not expressly provided for as a permitted activity in a Regional Plan (activities that might require a water permit include diverting the flow of a river for irrigation or building a dam for water retention)
5. True or false? **Coastal permits** are sometimes needed for activities in the coastal marine area (which is basically defined as the area below the low tide mark) which is not expressly provided for as a permitted activity in a district plan (examples of activities that typically require a coastal permit are erecting a jetty, building a marina, dredging the sea floor).

## Types of activities

1. What plans describe what a developer can and can't do?
2. How many types of activity labels are there under the RMA 1991?
3. True or false? **Permitted activities**: are those where a consent is always required and there will be some stipulations on how the activity is conducted.
4. For which three types of activity label are you most likely to need a resource consent?
5. Fill in the gap: \_\_\_\_\_ activities: are not allowed and no consent can be applied for.

## Consent process

1. Draw a simple flow chart of the consent process. Your diagram should start with the application and finish with the decision by council (successful or unsuccessful).

## How decisions are made

1. Which sections of the Act are particularly important for decision makers when making decisions about consent applications under the Act?
  
2. Which section is the most important for decision makers as it states the overall purpose of the Act?
  
3. What is the purpose of sections 104 and 105 of the Act?
  
4. True or false? Under sections 104 and 105 decision makers must have regard to any actual or potential effects on the environment.
  
5. Fill in the gaps: Sections 104 and 105 of the Act include the following matters which the authority must have regard to include:
  - Any relevant provision of a \_\_\_\_\_ environmental standard, other regulations, a national policy statement including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, the \_\_\_\_\_ policy statement and any proposed regional policy statement
  - Any relevant provisions of applicable \_\_\_\_\_ or proposed plans
  - Any \_\_\_\_\_ matters the consent authority considers relevant and reasonably necessary to determine the application

## Who is involved, and getting involved?

1. Under the RMA which three agencies have a key role to play in the management of the environment?
  
  2. Which of these agencies do you think might be responsible for processing and making decisions on resource consents?
  
  3. Which two other organisations have a key function under the Act?
  
  4. Look at the diagram 'getting involved in the consent process' and answer the following three questions: (a) When does consultation occur and what is 'consultation'?
- (b) Where are consent applications publicly notified?
- (c) At what point can a public submission be made?
- (d) Give an example of when someone might want to make a public submission?