

Built Systems Policy Team

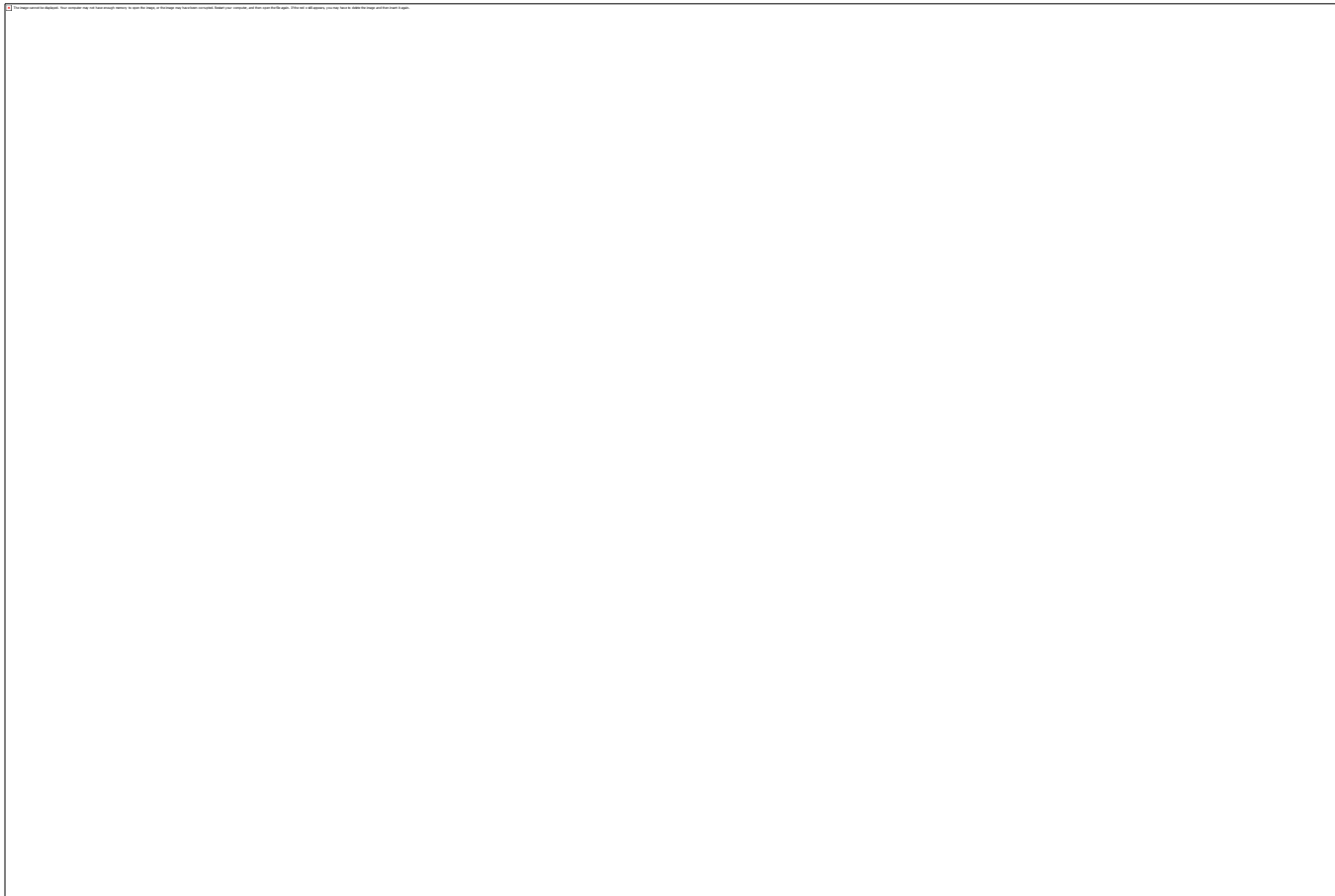
Chris Wood

Ministry for the Environment



“...*man today is in flight from thinking.*”

(Martin Heidegger, *Discourse on Thinking*)



Presentation content

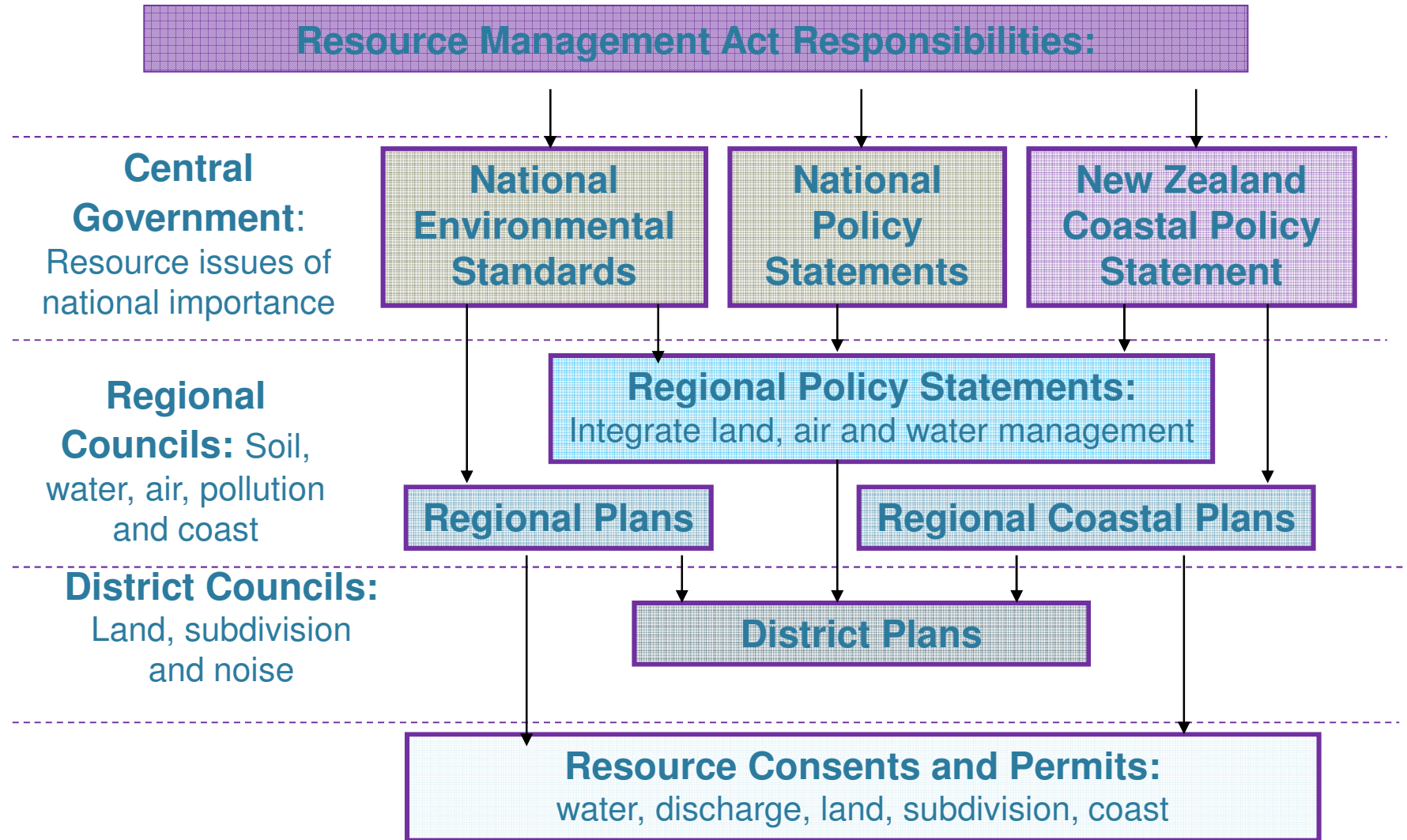
- Phase two of the resource management reforms (RMII).
- Possible development of rating mechanism for infrastructure projects.
- Build360 – guidance for commercial government buildings

The Resource Management Act

- Cornerstone of New Zealand's environmental legislation
- Origins in the late 1980s
- Came into force 1 October 1991
- Replaced 20 major statutes and 50 other laws

The Resource Management Act

- Integrated statute that governs the use of land, water, air, coastal marine areas and discharges
- Promotes 'sustainable management of natural and physical resources'
- Recognises matters of national importance



Phase Two of the RM reforms (RMII)

Builds on phase one of reforms (took affect 1 Oct 2009)

Primary objective is to achieve least cost delivery of good environmental outcomes, including:

- providing greater central government direction on resource management
- improving economic efficiency of implementation without compromising underlying environmental integrity
- avoiding duplication of processes under the RMA and other statutes

Phase Two covers

- RMII-C – Interface with the Conservation Act 1987:
- RMII-E – Environmental Protection Authority (EPA):
- RMII-F – Interface with the Forests Act 1949
- RMII-G – Generic process improvements:
- RMII-H – Historic places/archaeological consents:
- RMII-W – Water:

Phase Two covers

RMII-I – Infrastructure:

review the role of designations and compensation and examine other effective ways for planning for and managing the effects of network infrastructure

Phase Two covers

- RMII-U – Urban planning:

investigate new approaches to the planning and design of urban environments including ways of achieving better co-ordination between local authorities, government agencies and the private sector and examine the effectiveness and efficiency of options to manage urban growth and achieve better urban planning and design outcomes

RMII-B Interface with Building Act

Issues include:

- inconsistencies in how resource management requirements are being applied nationally by territorial authorities
- delays in processing of resource consents due to the lack of alignment between building and resource consenting processes
- no recognition, in current consenting processes, of the difference between simple and complicated consents, and the level of effect on the environment
- variability in the quality of resource consent applications.

Reasons for requiring resource consent

For simple residential buildings:

- earthworks
- height in relation to boundary
- site coverage
- front yard/side yard/rear yard infringements
- minor household unit/second dwelling
- or a combination of these reasons.

RMII-B

Underlying issues:

- **average house size becoming larger** (excluding apartments) – (1990, 137m² – 2008, 211m²).
- **lot sizes becoming smaller** – (1993, 1051m² – 2008, 924m²)
- **District Plans are becoming more regionally specific** (provisions/rules/details) leading to greater national variability of rules.
- **number of minor dwellings/second dwellings increasing** to meet changing family make-up
- **move toward greater housing density in urban areas** is leading to conflicts over privacy and access to sunlight
- **public interest in the quality of the built environment increasing** – District Plans beginning to cover new planning areas such as historic precincts, view shafts and landscapes of regional significance.

Development of rating mechanism for infrastructure

- I have been approached about the development of rating mechanisms for infrastructure (example being developed by www.agic.net.au/)
- Had a first discussion meeting in Dec 2009
- Plan to run a second meeting in March/April looking at a rating mechanisms for NZ (example www.ceequal.co.uk/)