



Maori & the RMA

RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

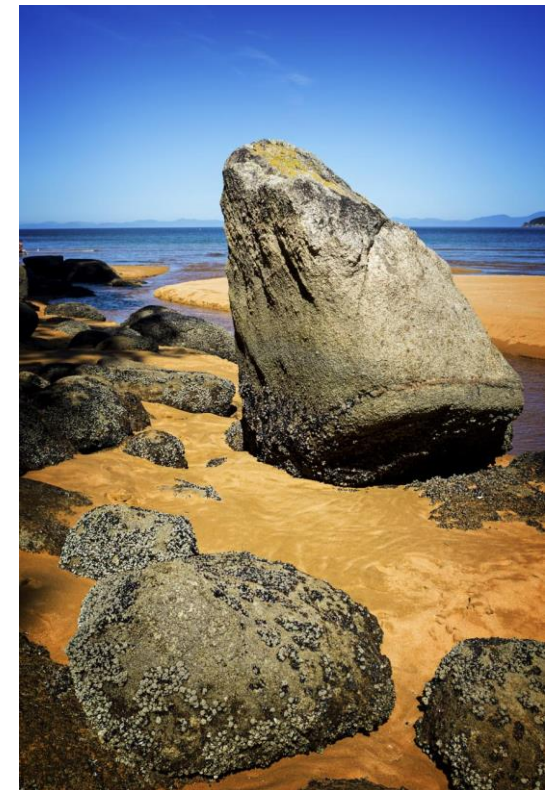
Tangata Whenua

- Have a long standing association with the natural environment.
- Issues of particular importance to tangata whenua include:
 - any discharges to water bodies,
 - activities in certain areas of particular interest,
 - or activities that have the potential to affect natural resources such as greenstone (pounamu), flax, or freshwater species like inanga.
- May also have concerns that extend beyond the purely physical and into spiritual, ancestral or historical realms, such as a deep affinity with particular food-gathering areas, or the location of burial grounds, or major battlefields.



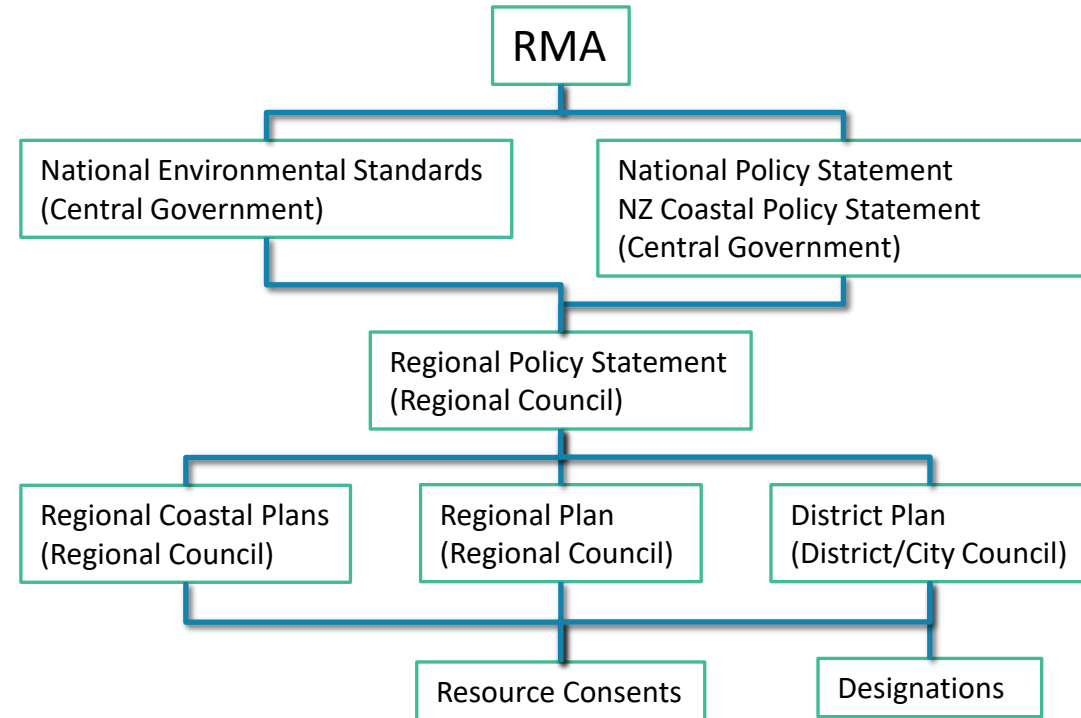
Tangata Whenua

- Different tangata whenua groups have varying positions on particular environmental issues.
- Tangata whenua groups include:
 - Kaitiaki – person or group with responsibility, concern or guardianship for a particular area or water body
 - Iwi – tribe, represented by a trust, runanga or iwi authority
 - Hapu – sub-tribe or group of whanau (extended family)
 - Other groups – individual marae, Maori land trustees or special committees
- Tangata whenua groups do not always agree about who has authority
 - Ahi kaa – continuous occupation
 - Mana whenua – customary authority
 - Kaitiakitanga – guardianship



What is the RMA?

- Resource Management Act 1991
- Defined as:
 - Helping us to manage our environment
 - Based on the idea of sustainably managing resources
 - Encourages us to plan for the future of our environment
- Tangata Whenua have a special relationship with the environment, specifically provided for in the RMA.



Section 6 – Matters of National Importance

- “In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:”
- 6(e)
 - “the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga:”



Section 7 – Other Matters

- “In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to—”
- 7(a)
 - “kaitiakitanga” - Guardianship



Section 8 – Treaty of Waitangi

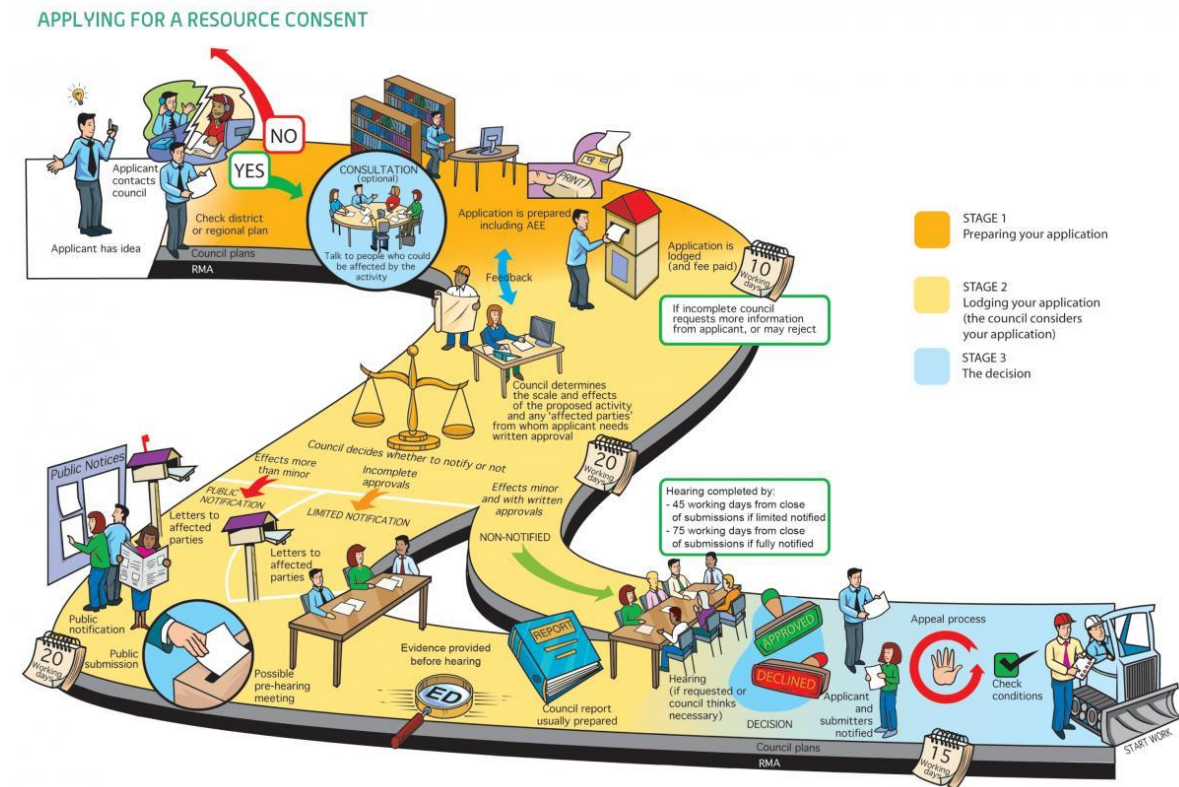
- “In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the [Treaty of Waitangi](#) (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).”



Resource Consent Consultation

- The RMA does not require you to consult with anyone.
 - Strengthens application by:
 - Gaining local knowledge you might not be aware of eg flooding
 - Incorporating tangata whenua values and interests eg traditional burial sites
 - Enhanced proposals and improved environmental outcomes
 - Making the consent process easier by lessening concern, doubt and confusion

By consulting you build relationships with the community and tangata whenua.



Tangata Whenua Consultation

- Often multiple tangata whenua groups for an area – iwi, hapu, whanau
- Their relationship with the environment is provided for in the RMA
- Face-to-face meetings are required which tend to lead to marae meetings
- Iwi management plan – information regarding what matter to a particular tangata whenua group
- Cultural impact assessment – explanations of cultural values, interests and associations



Mauri

- Life principle, life force, vital essence, special nature, a material symbol of a life principle, source of emotions - the essential quality and vitality of a being or entity. Also used for a physical object, individual, ecosystem or social group in which this essence is located.



Mauri Model

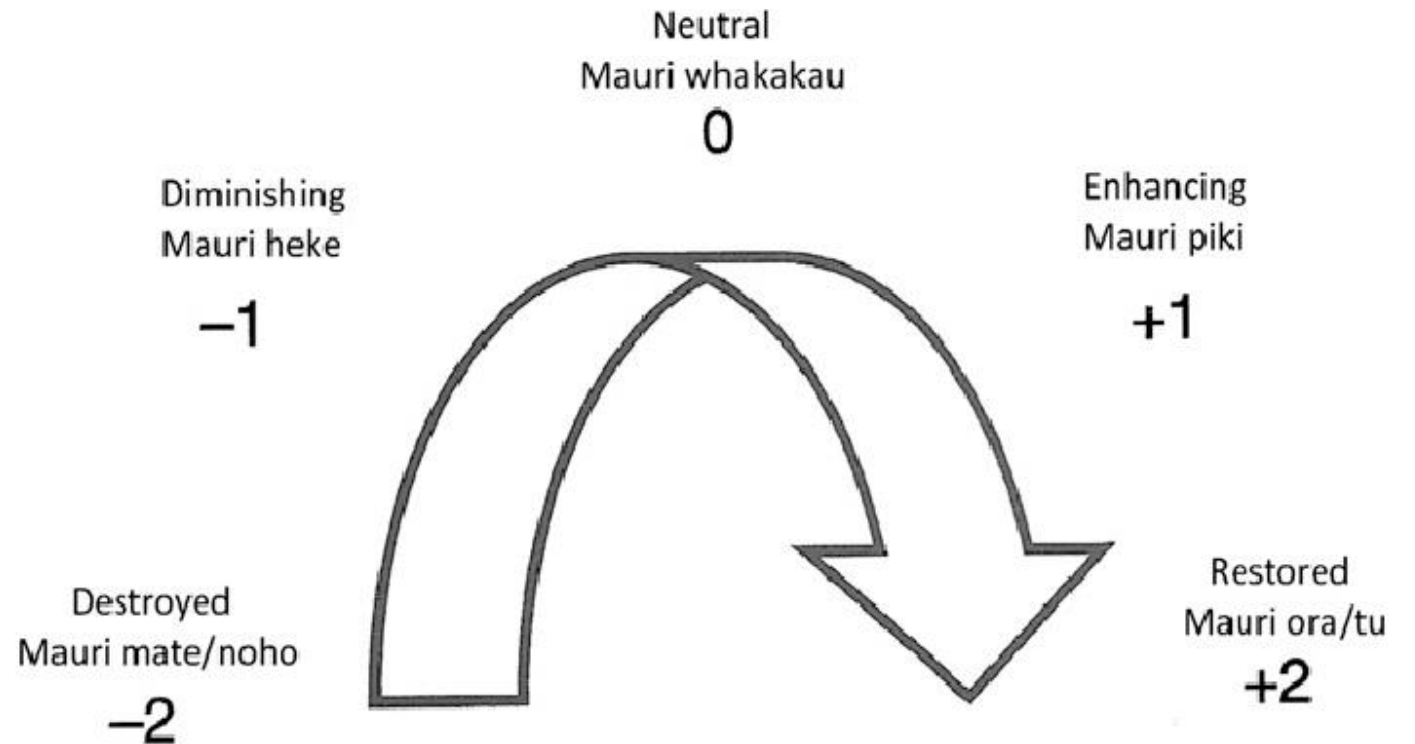
Mauri-ometer <http://mauriometer.org/>

- Decision making framework combining stakeholder assessments of worldviews with impact assessments of indicators to determine sustainability.
- Uses the concept of mauri as the sustainability measure.



Mauri Model

- Mauri model measures four dimensions:
 - Environmental
 - Cultural
 - Social
 - Economic
- Choose indicators that represent the impacts upon mauri for each dimension.



References

Ministry for the Environment. March 2015. *An Everyday Guide: Getting in on the Act.*
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/16380>

Ministry for the Environment. March 2015. *An Everyday Guide: Consultation for resource consent application.* <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/16378>

Resource Management Act. 1991. <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>